

Thursday February 29 1996

Albania D 1.20	China HK 2.50	France FF 1.10
Andorra FF 1.20	Cyprus C 1.20	Germany DM 2.50
Australia A\$ 2.00	Czech Republic KCz 1.20	Greece Dr 1.20
Bahamas B\$ 2.00	Denmark D 1.20	Hong Kong HK\$ 2.50
Bahrain B\$ 2.00	Egypt E 1.20	India IN 1.20
Belgium B 1.20	Finland F 1.20	Indonesia Rp 1.20
Bulgaria B 1.20	France FF 1.10	Israel NIS 9.50
Canada C 1.20	Germany DM 2.50	Italy L 2.00
Chad C 1.20	Greece Dr 1.20	Japan Y 1.20
Cuba C 1.20	Hong Kong HK\$ 2.50	Kenya K 1.20
Czech Republic KCz 1.20	India IN 1.20	Latvia L 1.20
Dominican Republic D 1.20	Indonesia Rp 1.20	Lithuania Lt 1.20
Egypt E 1.20	Israel NIS 9.50	Luxembourg L 1.20
Finland F 1.20	Italy L 2.00	Malaysia M 1.20
France FF 1.10	Japan Y 1.20	Malta M 1.20
Germany DM 2.50	Kenya K 1.20	Mexico M 1.20
Greece Dr 1.20	Latvia L 1.20	Netherlands G 4.00
Hong Kong HK\$ 2.50	Lithuania Lt 1.20	Normy NK 1.20
India IN 1.20	Luxembourg L 1.20	Oman O 1.20
Indonesia Rp 1.20	Malaysia M 1.20	Pakistan P 1.20
Israel NIS 9.50	Malta M 1.20	Poland Z 1.20
Italy L 2.00	Mexico M 1.20	Portugal E 2.00
Japan Y 1.20	Netherlands G 4.00	Romania R 1.20
Kenya K 1.20	Normy NK 1.20	Russia R 1.20
Latvia L 1.20	Oman O 1.20	Saudi Arabia R 1.20
Lithuania Lt 1.20	Pakistan P 1.20	Sweden S 1.20
Luxembourg L 1.20	Poland Z 1.20	Switzerland S 1.20
Malaysia M 1.20	Portugal E 2.00	Taiwan T 1.20
Malta M 1.20	Romania R 1.20	Thailand B 1.20
Mexico M 1.20	Russia R 1.20	Turkey T 1.20
Netherlands G 4.00	Saudi Arabia R 1.20	USA US\$ 2.00
Normy NK 1.20	Sweden S 1.20	UK £ 1.20
Oman O 1.20	Switzerland S 1.20	Zimbabwe Z\$ 2.00

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,488

Nick Davies Down Under

Why aussies don't give a XXXX for the monarchy

Guardian 2 with European weather

OnLine

Long-distance calls to the stars

G2 pages 10/13

Derek Malcolm on the latest movies

Strange Days with Ralph Fiennes

G2 pages 8/9



Princess of Wales agrees to divorce but settlement wrangles go on

Edward Pilkington

THE Princess of Wales last night announced she had agreed to a divorce, opening the prospect of an end to the royal marriage within weeks.

The break has been cleared by the courts, she said she would remain in her Kensington Palace apartment, continue to share all decisions relating to the children, and carry the title Diana, Princess of Wales.

... who were given no warning. Palace sources said they regarded her wording as a negotiating ploy putting her side of the story, not a definitive picture of a settlement. "She has stated what she wants to achieve. It may not be what is finally agreed."

The focus of the royal wrangle now shifts from the question of whether Diana would co-operate, to detailed negotiations of a multi-million pound agreement. The figure of £15 million has been mooted.

Earlier a Buckingham Palace spokesman said: "The Queen was most interested to hear that the Princess of Wales had agreed to the divorce."

... the fact that she is now a fully free agent who acts independently of the palace and of government. The announcement caught Downing Street on the hoof. "We only have press reports of this — it is a matter for the royal family," a spokesman said.



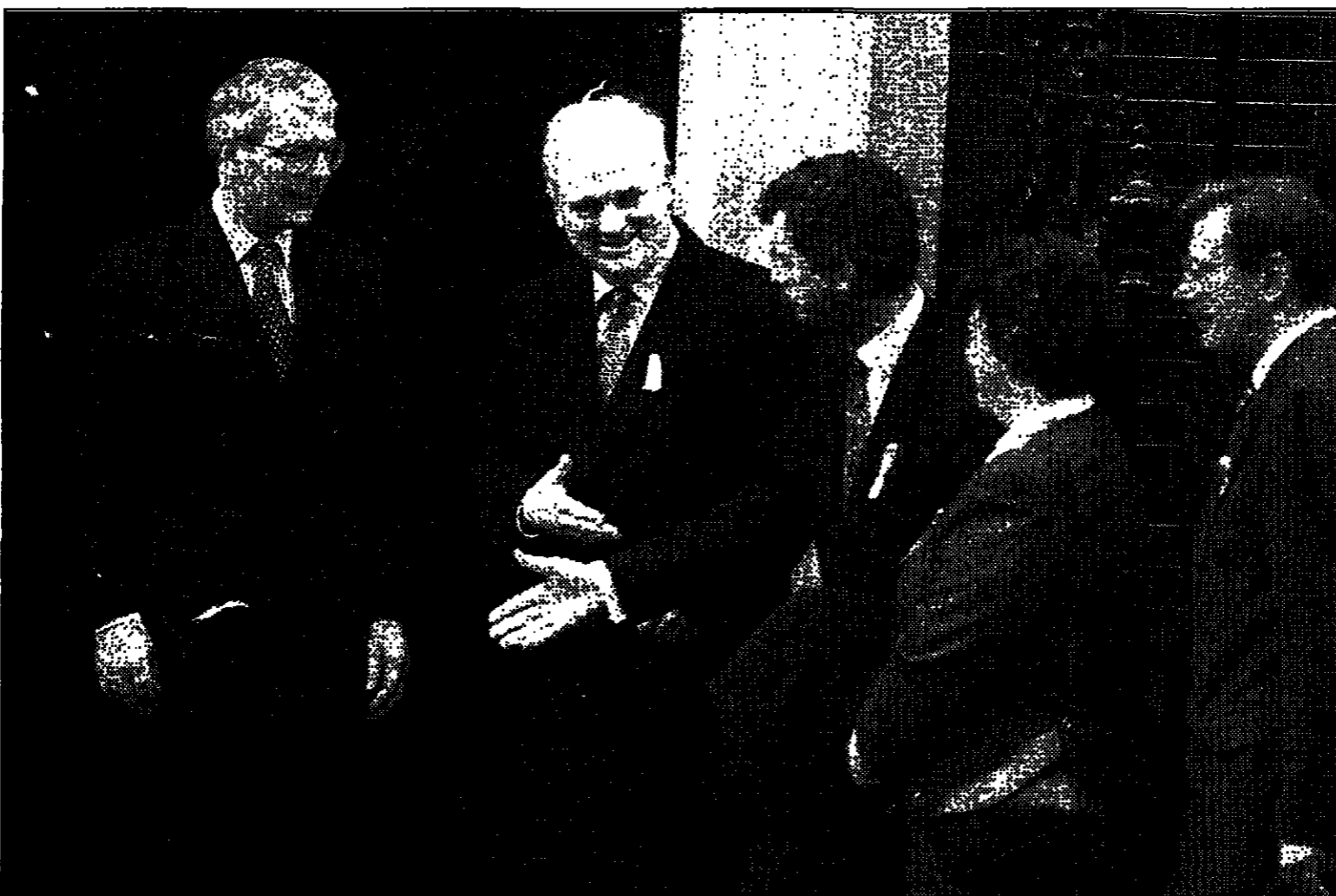
The prince... made clear willingness to split instantly

Ulster: The gamble for peace

Talks in June after elections

Michael White and David Sharrock

JOHN Major and John Bruton last night put all the players in the Northern Irish peace process on the spot when they met Sinn Fein's demand for an unbreakable date for all-party talks, and warned that they will impose their own election formula on the province if its feuding politicians fail to agree one within a fortnight.

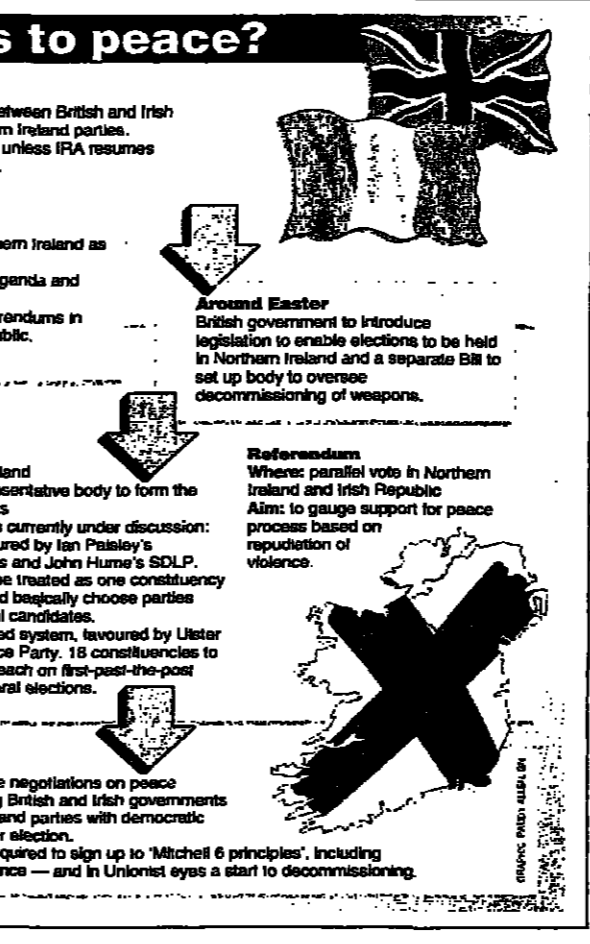


John Major, John Bruton, and the Irish foreign minister, Dick Spring outside No 10 Downing Street yesterday

restored. Privately some Tories fear that, contrary to official assurances, what the two leaders condemned as "murderous IRA attacks" have gained concessions.

Across the political spectrum, from Sinn Fein to the loyalist paramilitaries, the public reaction to the most dramatic Anglo-Irish initiative since the Downing Street declaration launched the peace process 26 months ago was cautiously positive.

Major gives ground, page 4; Leader comment, page 8; Hugo Young, page 9



'I am convinced that this is the path supported by the overwhelming majority of the people of Northern Ireland, who have so resoundingly rejected violence'

'There are enormous difficulties in rebuilding a peace process which can inspire confidence against a background of 18 months of bad faith and stalling'



'Establishing a commitment to peaceful means by Sinn Fein-IRA must be the priority. Until it can be resolved we would find it impossible to meet face to face with Sinn Fein'

World news, delivered to your door.

The Guardian International and the Observer are both now available by subscription throughout France.

This means you can enjoy the Guardian International's award winning journalism every day, delivered direct to your home. Quality reading - world and UK news, analysis, business, features and sport - brought to you, every morning, at no extra cost.

The Observer is the world's original Sunday newspaper - over 200 years old. Every week, six sections of top quality news, business, arts and sport, plus the award winning Life magazine, delivered to your door.

For more details about rates and our introductory offers, contact our subscription agent, Media Vitessse, Métropole 19, 134 - 140 Rue d'Aubervilliers, Paris 75019, telephone (1) 40 37 94 94, fax (1) 40 37 29 39.

The Guardian theObserver Premier Newspapers

Inside

News 2 Letters 8 Comment 9 Obituaries 10 Financial news 11

G2

Pass Notes 3 Women 4/5 Mooreover 7 Screen 8/9 OnLine 10/13

Quick Crossword 15 Cartoons 15 Radio 16 Television 16 Weather 16



Final deal still to be worked out — Divorce no bar to becoming king — Remarriage would cause problem for Church

Final throes of a miserable marriage

"I don't want a divorce, but obviously we need clarity on a situation that has been of enormous discussion over the last three years in particular. So all I say to that is that I await my husband's decision of which way we are all going to go"
— Princess Diana, November 1995

"That sort of question is very much in the future and, if it happens then it'll happen, but... at the moment it's not a consideration in my mind"
— Prince Charles on divorce, 1994

"After considering the present situation the Queen wrote to both the prince and princess earlier this week and gave them her view, supported by the Duke of Edinburgh, that an early divorce is desirable. The Prince of Wales also takes this view"
— Palace statement, December, 1995

"Have you heard the latest episode of the soap opera?"
Prince Philip, January, 1996, in a secretly taped call on a mobile phone



Tensions between the Prince and Princess of Wales, pictured (top) in 1992, have inevitably affected Princes Harry and William. Attention now will be focused on Camilla Parker Bowles (left) and Prince Charles

The future for Charles: Divorce no bar to becoming king, but remarriage may cause problems for Church

Sally Weale

WHILE the Queen was described as "most interested" to hear that her recalcitrant daughter-in-law had finally agreed to a divorce, the Prince of Wales must have been positively jumping for joy. After months of indecision, negotiations can now begin to bring the whole miserable affair to an end. With the principle of divorce agreed, questions still surround Charles's accession to the throne and the chances of a second marriage to the other woman in his life, Camilla Parker Bowles. According to constitutional theorist Rodney Barker, of the London School of Economics, there is no impediment to the Prince of Wales taking the throne on the Queen's death as a divorced man. Nor is there, in theory, any problem with a divorced man becoming head of the Church of England. The problems might arise should the Prince of Wales wish to marry again. While there is believed to be no constitutional objection, senior clerics, including the Archbishop of York, George Austin, have made

clear that remarriage during the lifetime of a former partner involves a distinct departure from the principles of the Church. If and when Charles becomes king, he also inherits the titles of Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of a church which at present does not recognise divorce and remarriage under any circumstances. Charles has suggested a slight modification — to Defender of Faith — which could ease the problem. But the public's reaction is unpredictable. In the past it has been remarkably loyal to the Princess of Wales and might find it hard to stomach another woman, in particular Mrs Parker Bowles, in Diana's shoes. Speculation that Mrs Parker Bowles could one day become Queen Camilla has been rife since news of her intimate relationship with the prince emerged in Andrew Morton's explosive biography of the Princess of Wales. However, it was the prince's public admission of adultery in his television interview with Jonathan Dimbleby last year that suggested a second marriage could be on the cards with 49-year-old Mrs Parker Bowles. The couple met 25 years ago

and started an affair when she was already involved with Andrew Parker Bowles, who was to become her husband. Their marriage ended last year after 21 years. Her continuing involvement with the prince was spelled out by Diana in her retaliatory Panorama interview when she complained: "There were three of us in this marriage, so it was a bit crowded." The prince's office moved swiftly to reassure the public that the heir to the throne had no plans to remarry, presumably to head off critics who feared a marriage to Camilla would catapult the monarchy into even greater crisis. Within 48 hours, however, the statement was watered down, leaving Charles's options rather more open than they might at first have seemed. Palace officials let it be known that it was not a case of never, just that there were no plans at the moment. Of the three in the royal marriage, Mrs Parker Bowles could arguably be said to have been the best behaved. She has kept her own counsel, refusing to play into the media's hands, and has observed royal decorum at all times, no doubt envying her potential future mother-in-law. But though the palace might approve, whether Charles is to marry his Camilla will depend largely on the public. In one sense the electorate is like the national mother-in-law who might not take too kindly to the new wife coming along, and much prefer the old one," said Mr Barker.

The future for Diana: Queen of Hearts plays trump card and pushes forward her plan for good works

John Mullan

THE TIMING may have surprised Buckingham Palace, but Di watchers will feel it was deliberate. There is no better way to crown a day of the inevitable tabloid headlines this morning than an appearance at a new International Red Cross charity campaign. The self-proclaimed Queen of Hearts has set down a marker. Barbara Cartland, nonagenarian novelist and the prince's step-grandmother, was last night among the first publicly to wring her hands at the divorce announcement. "I am very upset about the whole thing. I know she has tried awfully hard to do everything right, but she could not go on as things were. All she ever wanted was love and children." But the princess is a much changed woman, moving from shy virgin, circa 1980, to marvellous manipulator of the media. This was June 1994, when her estranged husband's televised interview with Jonathan Dimbleby included his adultery confession. She wrested the tabloid fronts

from him, appearing in a plunging neckline at the Serpentine Gallery in Hyde Park, London. The country was left pondering how he could dump his beautiful wife for the decidedly frumpy Camilla Parker Bowles. Diana Spencer, aged 19 when she married in July 1981, had worked as a nanny before she was whisked into the Royal Family. She sees a rather grander role for herself now. She accepts she will never sit on the throne, but she told Martin Bashir, in his Panorama scoop last November, she wants to be seen as the Queen of Hearts. No better way for her to do this than to step into the media spotlight at Lancaster House tonight to launch Help-Aid. The scheme, linking the advertising of complementary goods, will, it is hoped, raise £2 billion worldwide for the Red Cross. The irony: this commercial method is known as brand "marriages".

Princess Diana has been assured that she will remain a member of the Royal Family and receive a hefty settlement and annuity. She will be expected to behave with decorum. Since she has said men matter little to her now, despite being linked with several, that should be a minor worry. But Julia Carling will think that unlikely. The princess's controversial relationship last year with Will Carling, the England Rugby captain, although said to be platonic, effectively ended the couple's year-old marriage. The princess says the welfare of her sons, William, aged 13, and Harry, 11, are all that concern her now. So she may step up the aim she voiced in the Panorama interview. She believes the crown should pass directly to William when the Queen dies or abdicates. She wants to retain a roving ambassadorial role for good causes, although there is scepticism about her supposed midnight visits to AIDS victims and others suffering from serious illness. She first revealed news of her activities in a call to Clive Goodman, the News of the World's royal editor, but efforts to trace patients proved difficult.

Diana holds strongest hand in final bargaining

The settlement: A title, a residence, an income for life, and full involvement in the future of their two sons

Giane Dyer
Legal Correspondent

MONTHS of hard bargaining by Princess Diana's lawyers, Mishcon de Roys, preceded last night's announcement that she had agreed to a divorce, and to her claim that the palace has agreed to her main demands — to have the title

Diana, Princess of Wales, and full involvement in the lives of her two sons. She will continue to live at Kensington Palace, with an office at St James's Palace. However, there are signs that the settlement is by no means complete. Her solicitor, Anthony Julius, said last night: "The negotiations will begin." But her agreement to the divorce almost certainly

means that the broad terms of the financial settlement have been sewn up. Diana holds an unusually strong bargaining hand because Prince Charles and the Queen are anxious for the divorce to go through as soon as possible and with the least damage to the monarchy. Since the couple have been separated for only three years, Charles would have had to divorce Diana on the grounds of adultery or unreasonable behaviour, causing great embarrassment, unless she gave her consent. In the circumstances, she would want to be certain her financial future was secured before agreeing to the divorce. The couple are certain to

divorce on the "civilised" no fault ground of two years' separation with consent, used by Princess Margaret and the Princess Royal. One term of the agreement will be who divorces whom. There is no provision for a joint divorce. Traditionally it has been considered more chivalrous for the man to let the woman divorce him. It was uncertain last night whether Diana's wish to be a roving ambassador would be granted. But the provision of an office suggests she will continue to play a role in public life. The deal will be hammered out between Mr Julius, a senior partner in the non-establishment firm Mishcon de

Reys, and Charles's solicitor, Fiona Shackleton, a partner in the blue-blooded firm Farrer & Co, the Queen's solicitors. Ms Shackleton also acted for the Duke of York on his separation from Sarah Ferguson. The deal is certain to include a capital sum to be invested to give Diana an annual income for life. She would be advised to go for a lump sum rather than maintenance payments because these would cease if she remarried. Since the 1989 Children Act, custody and access orders are no longer made on divorce. Parents are expected to work out their own arrangements, with the courts making orders only if parents can not

agree. Charles and Diana are expected to continue to share the children equally. Last night's statement made clear that Diana would continue to be involved in decisions about their life and future. Speculation has focused on a £15 million settlement, giving Diana £500,000 a year. But with a grace and favour residence at Kensington Palace, with staff, the sum is likely to be considerably less. It is doubtful whether Charles has sufficient wealth to meet the settlement, and the Queen is expected to contribute. As Duke of Cornwall, Charles controls assets worth more than £90 million. But he holds the duchy in trust for his successors and cannot sell assets.

The fairytale love affair that turned into a nightmare

The marriage: From wedding of the century to Camillagate, Squidgygate and that Panorama interview

Barbie Dutter

THEIR love affair had enchanted millions and the world watched with delight as they stood on the balcony and sealed their marriage vows with a kiss. At the age of 32, the bachelor prince had finally found his fairytale princess — a shy, beautiful teenager whose


quiet radiance and open adoration for her future husband captivated the country. The engagement between Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer was announced by Buckingham Palace in February 1981, and the romance culminated in the wedding of the century at St Paul's Cathedral five months later. As newlyweds, the couple laughed together, kissed

in public, and whispered private thoughts into each other's ears. A year after their marriage, the fairytale seemed complete with the birth of their first son, William, and Diana's popularity, already unprecedented, soared to new heights. By the time Prince Harry was born in 1984, rumours of disharmony had already begun to circulate, and by 1987 the media started to speculate about the future of their marriage. As the public celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary, the dream couple were living a private nightmare. In August 1992, the "Squidgygate" tape scandal hit the

news stands. Details of intimate telephone conversations between Diana and her close friend James Gilbey — in which he declared his love for her and called her Squidgy — rocked the royal establishment. Three months later came "Camillagate" — an intimate conversation between the prince and his lover, Camilla Parker Bowles. It was considered to be only a matter of time before separation became a reality. The announcement duly followed in December 1992 with John Major's Commons statement. Those hopeful that the private spat would abate could not have been prepared for the public squabbling which

ensued. In December 1993, Diana announced her decision to withdraw from public life. The following June, Charles admitted to the broadcaster, Jonathan Dimbleby, that he had been unfaithful to Diana, but believed that he would still be crowned king. In October, a book by Anna Pasternak alleged that former army officer James Hewitt had a five-year affair with Diana, fuelling fresh speculation that the couple were to divorce. Within a few weeks, Charles was seen in public for the first time with Mrs Parker Bowles, and in August last year, press reports linked Diana with the England rugby captain, Will Carling,

who later separated from his wife. Then came Diana's devastating Panorama interview last November, in which she admitted an affair with Captain Hewitt and declared herself under attack from sections within Buckingham Palace. She spoke of her unhappiness in the marriage but insisted that she did not want a divorce, and said she would not go quietly. In December, the Queen wrote to both the prince and princess, urging them to press ahead with a divorce as quickly as possible. Yesterday's announcement means it is now only months, if not weeks, before that becomes final.



The Open University

Study for a BA or BSc degree.

To broaden your interests or develop your career the Open University offers over 150 courses you can choose from to build your own BA or BSc degree programme. They cover arts, science, social science, computing, technology, modern languages, mathematics, business management, education and health and social welfare. If you are over 18 and resident in the European Union, you're eligible. No previous qualifications are required.

THROUGH OU SUPPORTED OPEN LEARNING

Our proven method of teaching allows you to study wherever you live and in your own time. Specially written texts and audio/video materials are backed by counselling and personal tutorial support and the opportunity to work with other students. If you need help, some financial support may be available. Admissions are on a first-come first-served basis - so fill in the coupon or phone NOW.

Send for your free brochure on BA/BSc degrees NOW.

Send to: The Open University, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes, MK1 1TY.
 Please send me a copy of the Course, Diploma and BA/BSc Degree brochures.

Name: _____ UOUC
 Address: _____
 Postcode: _____ Tel: _____

OU Hotline (24 hours) 01908 379199

University education and training open to all adults.

كلمة من القرآن



Sandra Gregory arriving at court in Bangkok yesterday on a prison bus. She escaped the death penalty by pleading guilty to trafficking heroin

PHOTOGRAPH: APICHART WEERAWONG

25 years for drug smuggler

PM won't press woman's case on Thai trip; co-accused acquitted

Nick Cumming-Bruce in Bangkok, Duncan Campbell and Rebecca Smithers

THE Prime Minister indicated yesterday that he had no plans to intervene to help Sandra Gregory, an English teacher jailed for 25 years for drug trafficking in Thailand. The co-accused, Robert Lock, from Cambridge, reacted with delight to his unexpected acquittal yesterday, although he remains in jail for another month pending a prosecution appeal.

Mr Major arrives in Bangkok this evening for a summit of European and Asian leaders, but it was made clear that he will not take advantage of contact with senior members of the Thai government to press Gregory's case. After three years in jail, Mr Lock, aged 30, left Bangkok's criminal court in buoyant spirits acquitted of heroin smuggling. Sandra Gregory, also 30, from Yorkshire, was led weeping from the court. She escaped a possible death penalty by pleading guilty. As the judge read out his verdict in a hearing which lasted barely five minutes, Mr Lock turned to journalists in

the tiny courtroom to declare: "I'm innocent and I've been proven innocent." His lawyer, Puttri Kuvavonda, acknowledged afterwards: "I had expected a conviction." Gregory, standing a few feet away, burst into tears as the judge read out his verdict. "He's going home and I'm getting 25 years!" she said. Police arrested Mr Lock, his girlfriend Ruth Billingham, and Gregory at Bangkok airport in February, 1993, as they checked in together for a flight to Japan. Mr Lock and Miss Billingham were found to be clean of drugs. Gregory was found to be carrying 68.6 grammes of heroin in condoms. She claimed that Lock had offered her \$1,000 to take the drugs to Tokyo.

Police, who had acted on a tip from British embassy drug liaison officers interested in Mr Lock's previous visits to Japan, detained and charged him. Gregory received the minimum sentence the judge could impose. The former teacher and 28 other Britons imprisoned in Thailand may receive remission under an amnesty which King Bhumibol Adulyadej is to grant to mark the 50th anniversary in June of his accession to the throne. If not, Gregory will have another year to serve in Bangkok's women's prison before becoming eligible under a prisoner exchange agreement to serve out her sentence in a British jail. The judge's view, read out yesterday, that the prosecution

had failed to prove Mr Lock's connection with any drugs appeared to favour his chances that there will be no prosecution appeal against conviction, Mr Puttri said. Jean Sharpe, of the British embassy in Bangkok, confirmed that drugs liaison officers attached to the embassy had alerted the Thai authorities to Mr Lock, an aspect of the case to which his family has strongly objected. Gregory's father, Stan Gregory, who lives in Pitscaple, Aberdeenshire, said: "On a day like today you can imagine how we feel. What can you do for Sandra? — what can anyone do for Sandra?" Mr Lock's mother Lynda, who lives in Lincoln and has been ill since his arrest, said: "It was the only verdict."



Robert Lock at yesterday's hearing in Bangkok

OU to cut student intake

John Carvel Education Editor

THE Open University warned last night that it will be forced to reduce student intake by 15 per cent next year as a result of a £6 million cut in its grant, which will be announced today by the Higher Education Funding Council. Despite ministers' commitment to promote lifelong learning and better opportunities for part-timers to benefit from a university education, the number of undergraduate admissions will fall from 33,000 to 28,000 in 1997. "This loss of 5,000 new students is equivalent to the closure of a medium-sized university. It does not make any public policy sense," said Geoff Peters, the pro-vice-chancellor for strategy and planning. The OU had expected to be protected from the full rigour of a 9 per cent cut in real university funding introduced by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, in November. Mr Peters said ministers had supported the Year of Lifelong Learning, launched throughout the European Union this month. They had appeared to appreciate the value of the OU's distance education techniques, which

require only half the public funding given to conventional universities. Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, had been so enthusiastic about the opportunities for improving part-time access to higher education that last week she told the national committee of inquiry into higher education, appointed under Sir Ron Dearing, to explore how the OU approach could be adopted by other universities. However, today's grant allocation will affect student intake at the OU more severely than the rest of the sector. On average, its 90,000 part-time undergraduates take six years to get a degree, compared to a standard three years for full-timers elsewhere. Since students who have successfully embarked on a course cannot be turned away, any cut in the total budget will fall disproportionately on the new intake. More than half the cuts next year will fall on science, engineering and computing courses. The Government had been anxious about a shortage of students in these areas and encouraged the OU to expand, but the cost of these courses is particularly high. The OU hopes to avoid compulsory redundancies by making efficiency savings elsewhere.

MPs' icy blast for inaccurate Met Office severe weather warnings

David Hencke, Westminster Correspondent

IMPRESSIONS that the weather is getting worse may be more the product of the winds of caution blowing through the Meteorological Office than real gales. The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee has accused the forecasters of getting a growing number of severe weather warnings wrong in the last two years. One in four warnings were not needed and one in six were wrong while one in five severe weather and gale warnings were false alarms. The MPs are demanding a new "accuracy" standard for the National Severe Weather Warning Service and that computers should automatically check frost warnings by monitoring road sensors.

MPs are also unhappy about the "insufficiently challenging" Ministry of Defence standards applying to forecasts on Radio Four. The forecasters are claiming these as a success even though a sixth of broadcasts before the 6pm news are wrong. Last year the National Audit Office identified three business performance targets which the Met Office wrongly claimed to have met. The committee MPs said they were concerned that the Met Office's chief executive, Prof Julian Hunt, had received a £4,800 performance bonus based on false data. "We consider it quite unacceptable that the Meteorological Office's performance reports, which have been presented to Parliament, have been inaccurate and misleading for at least two years," the committee said.

Her story

Drugs were 'offer I could not refuse'

Nick Cumming-Bruce and Duncan Campbell

DURING her time in prison, Sandra Gregory has been learning the five Buddhist precepts, (similar to the Ten Commandments), the Thai national anthem and the grace that is said before each meal, as such dedication can help to win a prisoner remission. While she was aware of the likely outcome of the trial,

she remains hopeful that she will have to serve only a small part of her time before being released or sent back to England to finish her sentence. Born in Kent 29 years ago, she moved with her family to Sewerby Bridge, Yorkshire, where, until her travels, she bought and sold antiques. Her parents now live in a village in Aberdeenshire. In 1991, she went to Thailand intending to stay for two or three months. She liked the life and found herself a job teaching English and a flat with a western boyfriend who worked in computers. "I had a good job, good money, good food, but I spent all my money," she said. "But I got homesick and from nowhere someone offered me an offer I couldn't refuse." Sandra Gregory is unusual in that she admitted straight away that she was responsible for the drugs she was carrying, although she had

little option since the drugs were found inside her. Most of the young women arrested in Thailand claim that boyfriends have given them suitcases to carry and they have no idea what is inside. "At the end of the day he did not force me to do it," she bluntly told reporters after her arrest. The remark was typical of a forthright personality who having pleaded guilty, wanted to be believed. The red-haired teacher said she had taken the money to help her get home after suffering from a tropical illness. She clearly chafes under the wearisome monotony and humiliations of life in a badly overcrowded prison where minutes count down and at the kind of petty frustrations of a regime that allows male prisoners to smoke, but not women. She has whittled away time on the kind of chores that can help earn remission and has

found relief in what she describes as the "zany humour" of Patricia Hussein, also jailed for drug offences. But three years of coming to terms with her predicament did little to lessen the anguish of the sentence she received yesterday as Robert Lock prepared for freedom. Her 25-year sentence she acknowledged as the minimum Thai law allowed, but she added between sobs, "It's still a very long time." What seems puzzling is that someone as intelligent and mature as Gregory could find herself in such a position. But two weeks ago it became clear that, however often arrests are made, some travellers to Thailand still end up in jail: 29-year-old Lisa Smith, daughter of a Hong Kong-based insurance executive, was arrested for alleged possession of hashish and amphetamines at the end of a holiday that her parents had paid for as a Christmas present.

Shadow minister wins libel damages

Sarah Boseley

GEORGE Howarth, the Labour MP for Knowsley North and a shadow home affairs minister, yesterday accepted an apology and damages in settlement of his High Court libel action against Guardian Newspapers Ltd. In the course of a sketch in February 1995, Simon Howarth told to him by a Merseyside broadcaster, who alleged that Mr Howarth had bumped into him in a street in Soho, London. Guardian Newspapers Ltd, publishers of the article,

acknowledged in an agreed statement read in open court on the second day of the hearing that it had been a case of mistaken identity. "It was said that the plaintiff bumped into a passer-by, but that instead of apologising the plaintiff had abused him using foul-mouthed language. Whoever was involved in that incident, it was not Mr Howarth." The publishers regretted the careless allegations made in the article, expressed their apologies to Mr Howarth for the distress caused and agreed to pay appropriate damages and legal costs. Before the agreed statement was read in court yesterday, counsel for Guardian News-

papers, Manuel Barca, put it to Mr Justice French, the presiding judge, that the sudden end of the case meant that one of the witnesses, journalist Alan Cochrane, would not be able to challenge from the witness box allegations that had been made against him in evidence by Mr Howarth and reported in the press and which had not as yet been the subject of any cross-examination. Mr Barca said that one could anticipate Mr Cochrane's concern about reports of court proceedings simply recording a witness's evidence before it has been challenged, particularly when he makes allegations concerning

a third party who is not one of the litigants in the proceedings. Michael Tugendhat, QC, counsel for Mr Howarth, pointed out that there was no reference to Mr Cochrane in the agreed statement. He added: "Any suggestion that what Mr Howarth has said in his evidence-in-chief is incorrect is something about which Mr Howarth would take the strongest possible objection and would be totally inappropriate." David Bady, QC, counsel for Express Newspapers, Mr Cochrane's employer, stood for the record that Mr Cochrane denied Mr Howarth's allegations.

Watch the Giants tame the Panthers this Saturday.

The Manchester Giants v The Doncaster Panthers
7.30pm, Saturday 2nd March at the NYNEX Arena, Manchester.

It's PLAY OFF time and things are really SIZZLIN' in the Budweiser Premier Basketball League. Last Saturday the Manchester GIANTS stuffed the Worthing Bears 118 points to 95. Can they make it FOUR straight wins in a row when they clash with the Doncaster Panthers this Saturday?

Be part of the action and get RESERVED seats for a MERE £6 (adults) and £3 (kids) ONLY if you bring this ad with you OR if you pre-book on one of the HOTLINE numbers shown below. PLUS, bring this ad, and you'll get a MASSIVE 30% off ALL GIANTS merchandise you purchase. Doors open at 6.00pm. Game starts at 7.30pm.

EXTRA ENTERTAINMENT THIS WEEK TOO!
You'll be thrilled by the world famous "FROGS" acrobatic team!

RESERVE tickets in advance by calling the Giants HOTLINE 0500 787 787 or the 24 hour credit card hotline on (0161) 930 8000 NOW!

To advertise in
The Guardian
please call 0171 239 9735

Obviously we should leave the boys to get on with what they are naturally suited to. Little things, like going to the pub and running the country.
Suzanne Moore

سكيا من اجل

EPITAPH FOR BOMBER: As the man who helped end ceasefire was laid to rest, politicians named day for all-party talks

White ribbons and leather mark burial

David Sharrock at the funeral of a bomber mourned by two families

"He walked frail, insignificant, shabby, miserable—and terrible in the simplicity of his idea calling madness and despair to the regeneration of the world. Nobody looked at him. He passed on unsuspected and deadly, like a pest in the streets full of men." The Secret Agent, Joseph Conrad.

THERE were two families burying their son Ed O'Brien, the 21-year-old IRA bomber who blew himself apart in London last week, and the town did not feel big enough to contain both of them.

The people of Gorey in county Wexford turned out to support the first family, the young man's parents. White peace ribbons were on every lapel. The other family was not welcome, but the IRA does not let a dead volunteer pass slowly from church to graveyard without paying its final respects.

More likely than not, the men of the IRA's Derry brigade had never met Ed O'Brien, but that would have made no difference to them. Nor to Pearse McAuley and Nessan Quinlivan, the Brixton prison escapees currently on bail while awaiting their appeal against extradition to Britain, who stood stiffly in the churchyard.

It wouldn't have mattered to William McGuinness, brother of Martin, or to Raymond McCartney, who has spent nearly half his life be-

hind bars for the murder of an RUC man, or to Pamela Kane, freed before completing her sentence for attempted armed robbery in a town not far from Gorey, by the Irish government as reward for the IRA ceasefire.

The faces may have been familiar to the observing plain clothes members of Garda Special Branch and the Emergency Response Unit, the republic's elite anti-terrorist unit, but to the people of Gorey, who were crammed inside St Michael's church for

Irish town 'trying to make sense of events that led to son's death'

the funeral service, they meant nothing. They were outsiders, some wearing green ribbons, hard-bitten men in denim and leather who, when the priest asked the congregation to make the sign of peace, shook hands among themselves alone.

Father Walter Forde spoke for the first family. "Their image of Ed will not be the very public image of a terrorist, but a personal one of a young boy and young man who is quiet and tough-minded, a keen and accomplished sportsman, a person who loved his family deeply."

They would be trying, like all of Gorey, to make sense of the events that led to their son's death, the priest said. "They will try to make sense of how a young man, barely out of his teens, was drawn into the world of terrorism, how his misguided idealism was hijacked, reshaped and distorted by the godfathers of violence."

Blinding sunshine spilled on to the shoes of the men from Derry, their lips shaping the prayers, hands making the sign of the cross, some of them studying their fingernails or scratching their heads during Father Forde's uncompromising homily.

The coffin was brought from its resting place in the church. As the mortal remains of Ed O'Brien were lowered into the ground his mother Margaret dropped a single red rose on to the coffin, before falling back into her family's supporting arms. Across the Irish Sea in London, where her son had died, the politicians were finally fixing a date for all-party negotiations.

It was what the IRA said it wanted all along. But the men from Derry, some of whom came and stood by the graveside once the mourners had dispersed, knew it wasn't much of an epitaph for their dead comrade. You don't carve tombstones or make stirring ballads from all-party talks.



Mourners following the coffin of 21-year-old IRA bomber Ed O'Brien through the streets of his home town Gorey yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: ERIC LUCE

Major gives ground in fixing date

Patrick Wintour and David Sharrock on implications of yesterday's announcement

JOHAN Major yesterday undertook the delicate balancing act of luring Sinn Fein back into the peace process by offering an immutable date for all-party talks, but without exposing himself to the charge that he has let the IRA bomb

its way to the negotiating table.

In truth there is no disguising the fact that the Government has given ground by agreeing a fixed date for all-party talks, the central Sinn Fein-IRA demand. Last week Sir Patrick Mayhew, the

Northern Ireland Secretary, in was holding out against a firm date in the Commons. Nevertheless, Mr Major and Mr Bruton have set themselves a formidable timetable.

Intensive talks starting on Monday and ending on Wednesday week are to be held in Belfast to which all parties committed to the democratic process will be asked to attend. The meetings will aim to thrash out details of the elected body, including powers and election method.

All constitutional parties have agreed to attend. Sinn Fein seems unlikely to be present unless an IRA ceasefire is announced by Monday.

There is deep concern about the route to those discussions, in particular Sinn Fein's exclusion from Monday's proximity talks, which are supposed to decide the form that Northern Ireland elections will take. Nevertheless, Sinn Fein's views can be channelled through civil servants into these meetings.

Mr Major said yesterday if the parties could not agree on the role of the elected body and its method of election in these talks, he will in effect impose his own plans.

He already has a blueprint and would have preferred to announce the details yesterday. But the SDLP and the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists badly want a Northern Ireland-wide single ballot, whilst David Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party wants elections through the single transferable vote in each of Northern Ireland's 18 constituencies.

Mr Major probably leans towards Mr Trimble's option, partly because the Commons legislation would be quicker. He is also planning a bill, likely to be mirrored in Ireland, setting up a body res-

ponsible for handling the decommissioning of weapons. Both bills are likely to come to the Commons at Easter and could be rushed through. At the same time Mr Major will have to decide whether to back Mr Hume's plan for a referendum north and south of the border.

However, the real problems begin once the all-party talks start on Monday June 10. There must be an IRA ceasefire by that date if Sinn Fein

Reaction

"We believe there are strong grounds for confidence that Sinn Fein will now ask the IRA to stop their campaign" — John Bruton, Irish prime minister

"We want a permanent ceasefire... not a temporary tactical cessation of violence" — Peter Robinson, Democratic Unionists

"This is a moment of truth for paramilitary terrorist groupings — will they join in creating peace or will they isolate themselves in standing against the express wishes of the Irish people?" — Seamus Mallon, SDLP

"The two prime ministers have laid it on the line for the Republican movement — either they can be part of the process or they can continue their self-exclusion and marginalisation" — John Alderdice, Alliance Party

"This can work. At long last we now have the opportunity to debate the Mitchell principles with those who really matter" — David Ervine, Progressive Unionists

is to be allowed into the talks, and the republicans will also be asked to accept the six Mitchell principles at the very beginning of the talks.

Those principles include a renunciation of violence, a commitment to exclusively peaceful means to resolving political issues, action to end punishment beatings, and a commitment to accept the outcome of the talks.

Mr Major also highlighted a paragraph of the Mitchell report which said the Unionists would need to be reassured that Sinn Fein's commitment to democratic means is genuine and irreversible.

Mr Trimble made the same point, adding: "Until it can be resolved we would find it impossible to meet face to face with Sinn Fein. That looks as if Mr Trimble will want some decommissioning at the outset of the talks."

For Sinn Fein the communiqué fulfils its central demand, but not without preconditions. It does not like the idea of elections while the Mitchell principles also effectively decapitate the physical force republican tradition.

They know too that an early item on the talks agenda — which will have been drawn up in the absence of Sinn Fein — is how the decommissioning of IRA arms will take place as the discussions progress.

Before the IRA ended its ceasefire it seemed just possible that Sinn Fein might have been able to sign up to all of this. Now the balance of power has swung away from the politicians of the republican movement towards the militarists. It is hard to imagine the IRA is prepared to accept the conditions that entry into negotiation requires.

Leader comment, page 8; Hugo Young, page 9

WHAT DOES PEP STAND FOR?

At Abbey National it stands for Performance, Ease and Peace of mind.

Performance, because our Growth PEP has turned £4,000 into £4,808 (+20.2%) since March 1995*. Ease, because we aim to make our PEPs as simple to open as a savings account. And peace of mind because we were the biggest new provider of Unit Trust PEPs in 1995*. A great combination, we think you'll find, for pepping up your savings.

For straightforward advice on PEPs and other tax free ways to save just pop into your local branch, complete and send us the coupon below or phone us free on 0800 100 888 Monday to Friday 8.00am to 9.00pm or Saturday 8.00am to 4.00pm, quoting reference A391B.



ABBEY NATIONAL
The habit of a lifetime



INVESTMENTS

For your security and to assist us in improving our service to you, we may record or monitor all calls to Abbey National Direct. *Source: HSW Limited, Period 1.3.95 to 30.1.96. Buying to Selling Price (Source: HSW Limited January 1996). Excludes institutional investors. The value of tax relief depends on your personal financial circumstances and may be affected by future changes in legislation. The value of investments and any income from them may fall as well as rise, is not guaranteed and, therefore, you may not get back the full amount you invest. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. PEP products are managed by Abbey National Unit Trust Managers Limited. Abbey National, the Umbrella Couple symbol and The habit of a lifetime are trademarks of Abbey National plc. Registered office: Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL, United Kingdom. Registered Number 2294747. Registered in England. **ABBEY NATIONAL PLC, WHICH IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY, ONLY SELLS ITS OWN LIFE ASSURANCE, PENSION AND UNIT TRUST PRODUCTS.**

For further information on Abbey National PEPs please return this coupon to:
Abbey National Direct, Freepost GW8275, 287 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5BR.

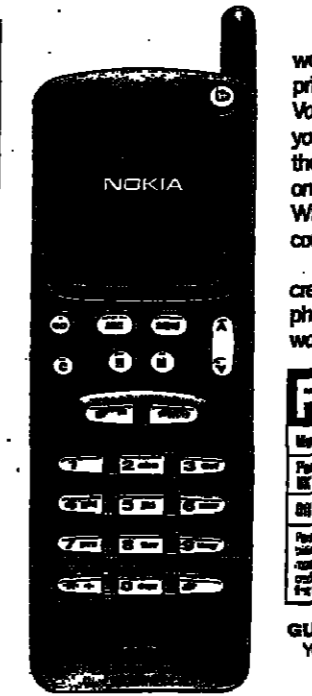
NAME (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms): _____ INITIALS: _____ SURNAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
POSTCODE: _____
DAYTIME TEL NO: _____ EVENING TEL NO: _____

Nokia Digital Security. Cellphones Direct Prices!

LIMITED OFFER
£9.99
INC. VAT
FREE CONNECTION TO VODAFONE
People's World

- NOKIA**
GSM MODEL 2010.
- ◆ 99 name/number memory
 - ◆ 100 mins talk-time
 - ◆ 30 hrs standby-time
 - ◆ Complete with standard battery and rapid travel charger
 - ◆ Weight approx 320g

FREE IN-CAR ADAPTOR/CHARGER
FREE SPARE BATTERY
FREE LEATHER CASE
TOGETHER WORTHY OVER £25



Trust Cellphones Direct to make a world of difference to digital phone prices. With FREE connection to the Vodafone PersonalWorld Tariff, so you can use the phone throughout the UK, most of Europe and beyond on the GSM international network. With digital call clarity and absolute confidentiality.

Simply phone us with your credit card details to receive your phone plus valuable extras within 4 working days.

FREE CONNECTION TO VODAFONE PERSONALWORLD

Monthly Rental	£17.52 (£15 + VAT)
Peak Hour Calls	42p per min (35p + VAT)
All Peak Calls	18p per min (15p + VAT)

Minimum contract period 7.50.00. See us for the Standard Tariff details. All charges are in £. VAT is 5%. Line rental included. Monthly rental includes 100 mins. All other charges will be added to your monthly bill. For full details of our terms and conditions please visit our website at www.cellphonesdirect.co.uk or call us on 0500 000 888.

GUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND
Your phone is covered by our 14 days no quibble money back promise.

Cellphones Direct

ORDER NOW FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

FREEPHONE 0500 000 888

CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9A.M. TO 5PM WEEKENDS 10A.M. TO 5PM

PLEASE BRING YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT WITH YOU WHEN YOU CALL. AND QUOTE REF 888. (CASHIER WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT SWISH CARDS)

مكتبة الاصل

Mackay's tough curbs for people with lavish lifestyles

Legal aid loophole for rich is plugged

Claire Dyer
Legal Correspondent

TOUGH new controls allowing people with lavish lifestyles to fund legal battles at the taxpayer's expense were announced yesterday by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay.

Legal aid applicants with wealthy lifestyles, overseas assets or complex financial affairs, will have their means tests carried out by a special investigation unit headed by an accountant.

The regulations will come in to effect from June 1 and will initially deal with applications for civil legal aid, though the Government hopes to include criminal cases as soon as possible.

The provisions include a limit of £100,000 on the amount of equity value in a house that is ignored in a legal aid assessment and on the amount of mortgage that can be offset against the value of a house. Allowances for mortgage repayments will be limited to the amount due on a £100,000 mortgage.

The moves follow an outcry over a series of cases in which apparently wealthy individuals were granted millions of pounds in legal aid, while some applicants on ben-

efit were denied it. One much publicised case was that of Jawad Hashim, who defrauded the Arab Monetary Fund of £34 million and ran up a £4 million legal aid bill fighting a civil claim to get the money back. Legal aid was eventually stopped when his full circumstances came to light.

Hashim had homes in Britain, Canada and the US, but these were not taken into account in the means test because assets in dispute in court cases are excluded. So are assets frozen by the court, as Hashim's were.

Bryce Taylor, the gym owner sued by the Princess of Wales over secret photos taken of her, was granted legal aid because money he obtained from selling the pictures was frozen by the court.

Under the new rules, the means test will be able to take account of assets belonging to friends, relatives and children but providing a "significant material advantage" to the applicant.

In the case of Kevin Maxwell, the manor house bought by his parents-in-law but occupied by him and his family would be weighed in the scales.

However, benefits of this sort would be unlikely to deny legal aid to defendants in serious fraud cases. Such cases are so expensive to de-

fund that only the wealthiest could fund them from their own resources.

The special investigation unit would cover cases where applicants or a partner had overseas assets, access to assets or income apparently owned by others, a wealthy lifestyle, interests in a business with substantial assets, or complex financial affairs. It would also investigate applicants who were reputed to have significant income or assets, were involved in large legal claims, or had rearranged their finances to qualify for aid.

The latest plans, originally floated in a consultation paper two years ago, were criticised yesterday by the Law Society, which claimed that some parts were unworkable and would themselves lead to legal disputes.

Martin Mears, the Society's president said: "We support the Government's long overdue proposal to take house capital into account and to establish special units to investigate means in complex cases. But some other proposed changes are unworkable."

"An arbitrary limitation on the amount of mortgage taken into account is nonsensical. The proposal to take the resources of applicants' relatives and friends into account is also simply unworkable."

Grant for robber suing police suspended

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

A CONVICTED armed robber bringing an action against the police after being shot during a raid had his legal aid suspended yesterday after a furious response from the police to the action.

Steve Charalambous, aged 35, of Finsbury Park, north London, who was jailed for five years in September 1993, intends to sue the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, for £250,000 compensation for his injuries.

Charalambous pleaded guilty to conspiracy to rob and firearms offences after the raid in February 1993. He was

shot three times by police marksmen after ignoring calls to drop his imitation weapon.

Claiming that police committed unlawful assault and trespass to the person, he is seeking damages for pain and "emotional distress".

"The Legal Aid Board said yesterday it had suspended the initial grant of legal aid to Charalambous and was seeking clarification of his action from his lawyers. "The grant was limited to gathering certain information and legal opinions about the merits of Mr Charalambous's claim against the police," it said in a statement.

Legal aid was not granted to allow him to take his case to a court hearing. "If we are not satisfied with any explanation

given by Mr Charalambous or his solicitors his legal aid will be withdrawn."

Mike Bennett, chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation, described the decision to grant legal aid as "a world gone mad."

"We have got a system where the goodies are the badies and the badies are the goodies." His members would find it deeply demoralising if the case were allowed to proceed.

Lawyers acting for Charalambous, Joseph Hill & Co, said in a statement: "The events relating to the shooting have never been tested in court. He is as entitled as any other citizen to seek compensation if the violence was not justified."



Worth keeping? ... The Air Force Memorial at Coopers Hill, Surrey, which is among the buildings on which English Heritage is seeking public judgment. PHOTOGRAPH GARRY WEASER

List system 'not saving buildings'

Maev Kennedy
Heritage Correspondent

ENGLISH Heritage's system of preserving buildings was criticised by one of the country's leading architects yesterday as another 65 edifices, including the Severn Bridge, were put forward for listing.

The response from Sir Denys Lasdun was not quite what English Heritage was expecting when it invited reaction to its proposals for listing post-war buildings.

The architect's model of his College of Physicians in Regents Park, London, is included in an exhibition of the 65 buildings. English Heritage is urging Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, to give it the second highest listing, Grade II*.

Sir Denys said yesterday that listing had not helped two of his buildings, threatened with demolition or drastic alteration. "I am not opposed to the listing procedure, but there ought to be some respect for the buildings listed, and some means of providing funds if a listed building needs expensive work," he said.

The east London borough of Tower Hamlets wants to demolish Keeling House, his tower block in Bethnal Green, spot listed three years ago to protect it. The council says it is costing £50,000 a year just to keep it empty. The building needs structural repairs which it cannot afford.

Major alterations are proposed to the Royal National Theatre, a Grade I listed building, which Sir Denys says are a breach of faith of the terms of its design.

Martin Cherry, head of listing at English Heritage, said the purpose of listing was not

to set a building in aspic but to signal that it was worthy of special consideration. "I believe the listing has achieved that for Sir Denys's buildings," he said.

Sir Denys's complaints were backed by Paul Hamilton, designer of another recently listed building, the brutalist concrete signal box at New Street, Birmingham.

"I don't think listed buildings should become untouchable, but tastes change, and I think a considerable period of time should be allowed to elapse for the public eye to adjust before major changes are proposed."

There is still no interim protection for buildings between the recommendation and the listing being made or rejected. One of the buildings recommended in the first round of post-war listings was so extensively altered before the final decision that it was dropped from the list.

The public is now being invited to judge whether a 1960s footbridge, a 1960s crematorium, and a church with built-in sauna, are worth adding to the nation's treasury of listed buildings.

The first round of post-war listings included some spectacularly unpopular commercial buildings, including the Centre Point tower in London.

The only recommendations for Grade I are both bridges, the Kingsgate footbridge in Durham, and the Severn Bridge and Aust Viaduct.

Churches dominate the list of 65 buildings, but there are also libraries, bridges, town and county halls, and a students' union and hostel.

Something Worth Keeping? is at the Royal Institute of British Architecture, Portland Place, London, from tomorrow until March 23.

City claims millennium contest rigged

LEADERS of Britain's second city yesterday claimed the contest to stage the Millennium Exhibition was rigged in favour of Greenwich in south-east London, writes Maev Kennedy.

Theresa Stewart, leader of Birmingham council and a director of the National Exhibition Centre, accused the Millennium Commission of succumbing to pressure from

London-based ministers. "It is a lost opportunity for the whole country. I am angry that we were invited to take part in a rigged competition."

Robin Corbett, Labour MP for Erdington, said: "They made up their minds from day one because they were in a time warp that it was going to be in London. The NEC could start on it tomorrow."

mission confirm that the Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine pushed hard for a London site as a way of furthering the regeneration of the Thames corridor, a project he has cherished since his days as environment secretary.

The Heritage Secretary Virginia Bottomley, said Greenwich offered the most exciting opportunities for an

exhibition about time, and for urban regeneration.

The news of the commission's choice was leaked to the Corporation of London last week by another Cabinet member with a keen interest in Thames-side developments, the Environment Secretary, John Gummer.

Mrs Bottomley, announcing the decision yesterday, said of the Greenwich peninsula

site: "We believe it could attract more visitors. It would allow a more exciting presentation of the exhibition theme based on time, as the site is on the prime meridian."

She added: "The Millennium Exhibition would regenerate an important part of south London — it would breathe new life into a wasteland close to the heart of the capital."

The COOPERATIVE BANK

Gold Card, free for life.

- No annual fee, ever.
- Saves you up to £90 a year in fees.
- Pay off your existing balance at 12.6% APR variable.
- £3,000 minimum credit limit.
- No need to bank with us.

Save up to **£290** on your debt.

Special offer: you can transfer your current credit card balance at just 1% a month (12.6% APR variable).

So, if you owe say **£3,000** on a Barclays or NatWest Bank card, you'll save more than **£290** over two years.

Call free now: **0800 11 77 11**

Call free quoting reference no. 71992 or post the coupon

You need to earn £20,000 or more a year and already have a credit card.

Post to: Goldcard dept., Co-operative Bank p.l.c., FREEPOST (MR8192), Manchester M1 9AZ or phone 0800 11 77 11 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Please use block capitals.

Full name _____ Address _____

Postcode _____ Phone number _____

71992

The Bank may decline any application. Credit facilities are subject to status and not available to minors. Customers must use the card at least 10 times per year. Interest is charged at 12.6% APR. Annual fee is £90. The balance is repaid in full over a period of 24 months and payments are made 25 days after receipt of bill. Buy £100 or more on 22.6% APR. Annual fee is £90. Interest is 12.6% APR. Annual fee is £90. Interest is 12.6% APR.

Al Fayed to resuscitate Punch

Harrods boss enters media fray but delays newspaper schemes

Andrew Cuff
Media Correspondent

MOHAMED Al Fayed officially declared his intention yesterday of becoming an international media baron as he exhorted Punch magazine.

The Harrods owner launched his new media company, Liberty Publishing Limited, which plans to acquire a foothold in newspapers, television and radio. But he will not be going ahead with the launch of a new mid-market national newspaper, despite prepara-

tion of extensive dummies for a tabloid Life on Sunday. John Dux, chief executive of Liberty Publishing and former managing director of News International, said: "It is not the time to launch into the national newspaper market. It is reasonably cluttered."

The new company's first title on the newsstands will be the resurrected Punch, killed off by United Newspapers in 1982. It will return in September under the editorship of Peter McKay, London Evening Standard columnist. Stewart Steven, former edi-



Mohamed Al Fayed: 'won't be settling scores'

tor of the Mail on Sunday and Evening Standard, who has been appointed chairman of Liberty, rejected suggestions that Mr Al Fayed, who this

week lost his High Court battle for British citizenship, would use the new company as a vehicle for settling old scores with his Establishment rivals.

Mr Al Fayed has been frustrated in recent attempts to break into the British media. His offer to purchase the now defunct Today from Rupert Murdoch was dismissed and Reuters withdrew from negotiations with the businessman as he sought to buy London News Radio.

More than 40 jobs were axed at the Independent newspaper yesterday as its management attempted to bring losses under control.

The Independent's losses are estimated to be running at more than £1 million a month.

Notoriously, the Hubble telescope was sent aloft with a mirror that was out by one-fiftieth of the thickness of a human hair.

G2
Page 10

C&G Mortgage Rate Change

Notice to borrowers

Under the terms of our Mortgage Price Promise, C&G mortgage rates are being reduced from 1 March 1996.

March's reduction is 0.24% per annum and applies to all C&G variable base rates except base rates 179, 180, 181, 182, 183 and 184 which already benefit from lower rates.

Details of this change have been sent to customers who require written notice under the terms of their mortgage.

For loans in our Annual Instalment Review scheme, the change will be reflected in payments from March 1997.

This rate change does not apply to mortgages with a fixed or capped interest rate.

Under the terms of our Price Promise, we will review our mortgage rates again on 15 March 1996.

C&G Cheltenham & Gloucester

Cheltenham & Gloucester plc Barnett Way Gloucester GL4 3RL

Tomorrow the war crimes tribunal will decide what to do with a detained 'Bosnian Serb general'. Ed Vulliamy unmasks its captive

Serbian lies world chose to believe

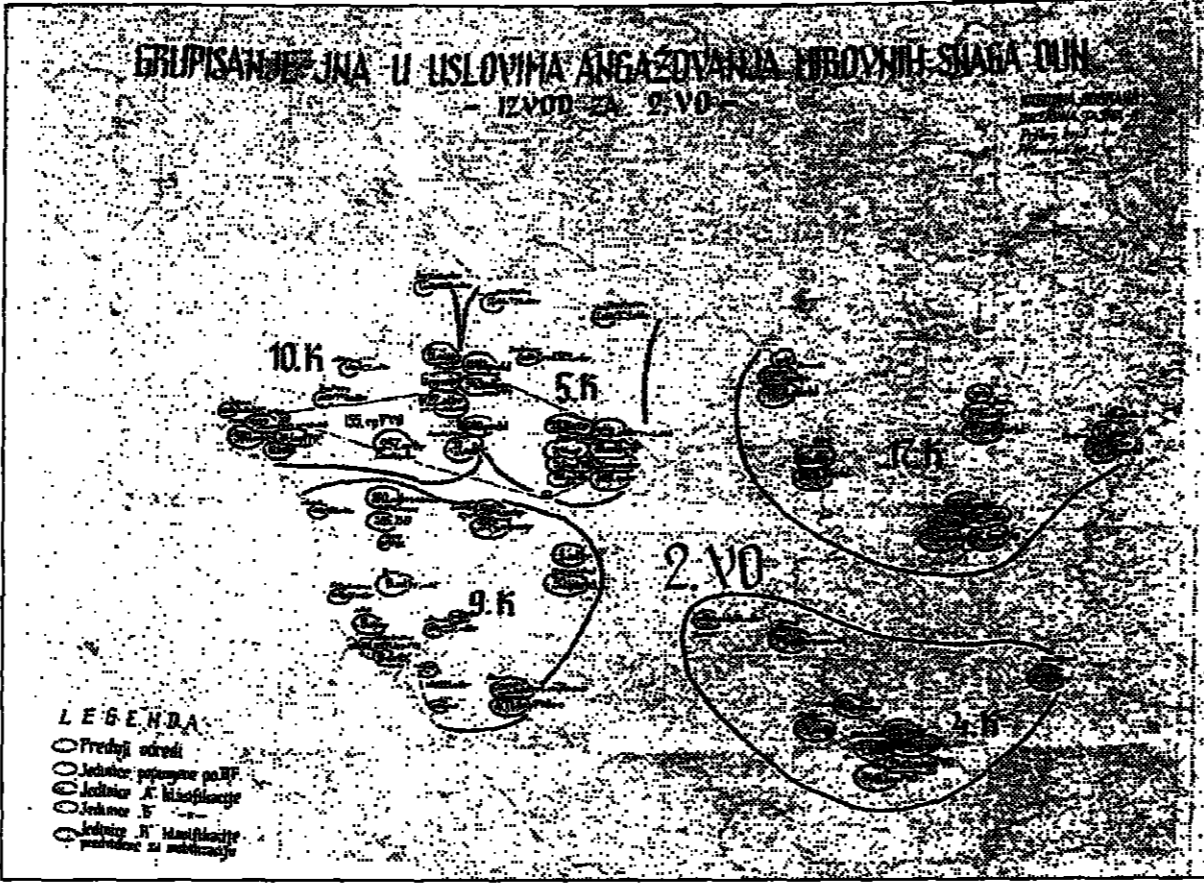
BOSNIA The SECRET War

DJORDE DJUKIC, the Serbian general being held in The Hague by war crimes investigators, is a general in the army of Yugoslavia proper, which years ago promised to pull out an officer in the Bosnian Serb army.

The revelation that the general - Belgrade's man with explosive implications for the Dayton peace agreement, while cutting to the core of the history of the conflict by revealing Belgrade's role in the Bosnian Serb war machine.

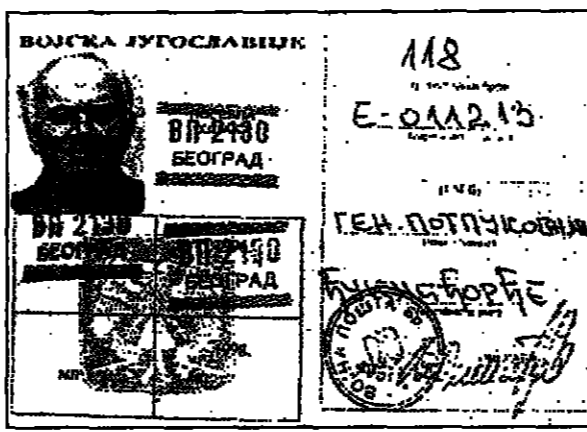
From the Yugoslav army reveal that it intended an all-out war against any international intervention in Bosnia at a time when that was being advocated by Germany and the United States in 1991.

President Milosevic has given guarantees to successive international mediators that the army of Yugoslavia, VJ, would abandon and blockade the Bosnian Serb army, VRS.



General Djukic's military accreditation papers (above) reveal him to be a general currently serving in the Yugoslav army.

The maps, drawn up in 1991, draft an all-out war against Nato or the United Nations, directed from Belgrade. They show the various corps grouped around population centres, especially those with high Serbian populations.



These are believed to include the infamous paramilitary formations which undertook savage "mop-up" operations under the command of gangsters like Captain Arkan.

Our savings rates are still higher than the Nationwide.

Our mortgage rates are still lower than the Nationwide.

So who really puts the customer first?

SAVINGS	£1,000-£4,999	£5,000-£9,999	£10,000-£14,999	£15,000-£24,999	£25,000-£49,999
DIRECT LINE	4.60%	5.00%	5.60%	5.80%	6.00%
NATIONWIDE CAPITALBUILDER (90 DAY NOTICE)	3.85%	4.05%	4.45%	4.45%	4.75%

Typical Mortgage of £80,000 repayable over 25 years (300 monthly payments).

MORTGAGES	APR (Variable)	Monthly Repayments (after tax relief)	Monthly saving with Direct Line	Total Payable
DIRECT LINE	6.7%	£516.49	-	£154,947
NATIONWIDE	7.2%	£545.34	£28.85	£163,602

Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 139 West Regent Street, Glasgow, G2 2BQ (from April 1st, 256 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5SR). A member of the Deposit Protection Scheme established under the Banking Act 1987 (as amended). Payments under the Scheme are limited to 90% of a depositor's total deposits subject to a maximum payment of £10,000 (or £20,000 if gross). Further details of the Scheme are available on request.

Direct Line Financial Services Limited reserves the right to decline any application. Life cover may be required to cover the amount of the loan and security in the form of a first legal charge (Standard Security - floating) over the property will be required. The property must be fully insured for the duration of the loan. All mortgage rates quoted are for standard variable rate mortgages. This standard variable rate will be reduced to the borrower once the mortgage is set up (for the example quoted the rate would be 4.12%). Direct Line will pay the legal fees only where the mortgage is on the borrower's existing home. Direct Line's special arrangements for legal fees. Without quotation any available on request. Some mortgages may require payment of a fee to the valuing agent when being transferred. Direct Line and the red telephone are trademarks of Direct Line Financial Services Limited and used with the permission of Direct Line Insurance plc. For your added security all telephone calls will be recorded and the recording kept secure. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Moves to curb veto anger Britain

John Palmer in Brussels

THE gulf between Britain and its European Union partners over the Union's future widened yesterday after new moves by France, Germany and the European Commission to curb the use of the national veto in key areas.

Turkey takes another step to a coalition government

Chris Nuttall in Ankara

TURKEY again appeared close to a resolution of its five-month political crisis last night as two mainstream parties announced an agreement in principle to form a coalition government.

Early retirement for former EC official's 'deplorable' conduct

Stephen Bates in Brussels

THE former head of the European Commission's mission in Moscow, Michael Emerson, accused of setting up a private consultancy to take advantage of European Union funding in Russia while still a commission official, was allowed yesterday to take early retirement and a full pension, but his conduct was described as "deplorable".

Print
aura

Ed Vulliamy

T

News in
Aparthe
S

Carlos
in Berl
J

Pakist
T

O

Handwritten signature or stamp at the bottom of the page.

Primaries rob Dole of his aura of inevitability

Martin Walker
on the confused state of the Republican presidential campaign


THE Republican presidential primaries in Arizona and North and South Dakota have checked the momentum of Mr Buchanan's right-wing insurgency, frustrating the exhausted campaign of the elder statesman Senator Robert Dole, and left the party with no clear front-runner as it heads into the next round of primaries in the South. The multi-millionaire publisher Steve Forbes won all 29 delegates from Arizona by cleverly organising absentee ballots, while Mr Dole won the primaries in the thinly populated prairie states of North and South Dakota, taking more than 40 per cent of votes in both. After his Arizona victory, Mr Forbes scoffed at pundits who he said had written his political obituary. "A week ago they wrote our obituary," a beaming Mr Forbes told cheering supporters at a Phoenix hotel. "Now tonight we can perhaps write the obituary for conventional political punditry in America." He added: "Arizona is a clear message for the rest of America. Our clear message is we are going to change the culture of Washington." The real casualty of the campaign so far has been the aura of inevitability that used to drape Mr Dole as the party leader with the backing of Republican governors and their party machines. Mr Buchanan grimly reconciled himself to "the long march to the nomination"

after devoting a furious week of campaigning to winning a disappointing third place in Arizona, where a large population of pensioners voted for Mr Forbes's flat tax. Sending out 100,000 absentee ballot forms in December and January when his campaign had a strong lead in the polls, Mr Forbes was able to pocket almost a third of his vote early, a trick he will not be able to repeat. He spent more than \$4 million in Arizona: \$40 for each vote he won. "I can't spend \$4 million in Arizona. Why don't you guys report the truth... that this guy is trying to buy the election," a grumpy Mr Dole growled at reporters yesterday. At 72, Mr Dole is already showing the strain of a physically gruelling campaign which has taken candidates from the freezing cold of New Hampshire to the Arizona desert and now back to the humidity of the South, all in less than a week. Mr Dole, who has already spent more than \$33 million, is coming ominously close to his legal spending limit of \$37 million, with the vast majority of the primaries yet to come. Unless he can nail down his victory over the next week, he will not be able to afford television ads in the crucial states of Texas, Florida and California. "Who is the front-runner? You got a very good question there," said Mr Buchanan, disappointed after being convinced that his cheering crowds and impassioned support from gun-lovers and anti-abortion religious groups in Arizona had promised him victory. But the key to Mr Buchanan's continued success is likely to continue, with several competing candidates unable to rally the party's natural anti-Buchanan majority into a single block vote. Despite humiliating fourth and

The Race
The winners so far

Louisiana	Feb 16	Buchanan
Iowa	Feb 12	Dole
Delaware	Feb 24	Forbes
South Dakota	Feb 27	Dole
North Dakota	Feb 27	Dole
Arizona	Feb 27	Forbes

Arizona



Candidate

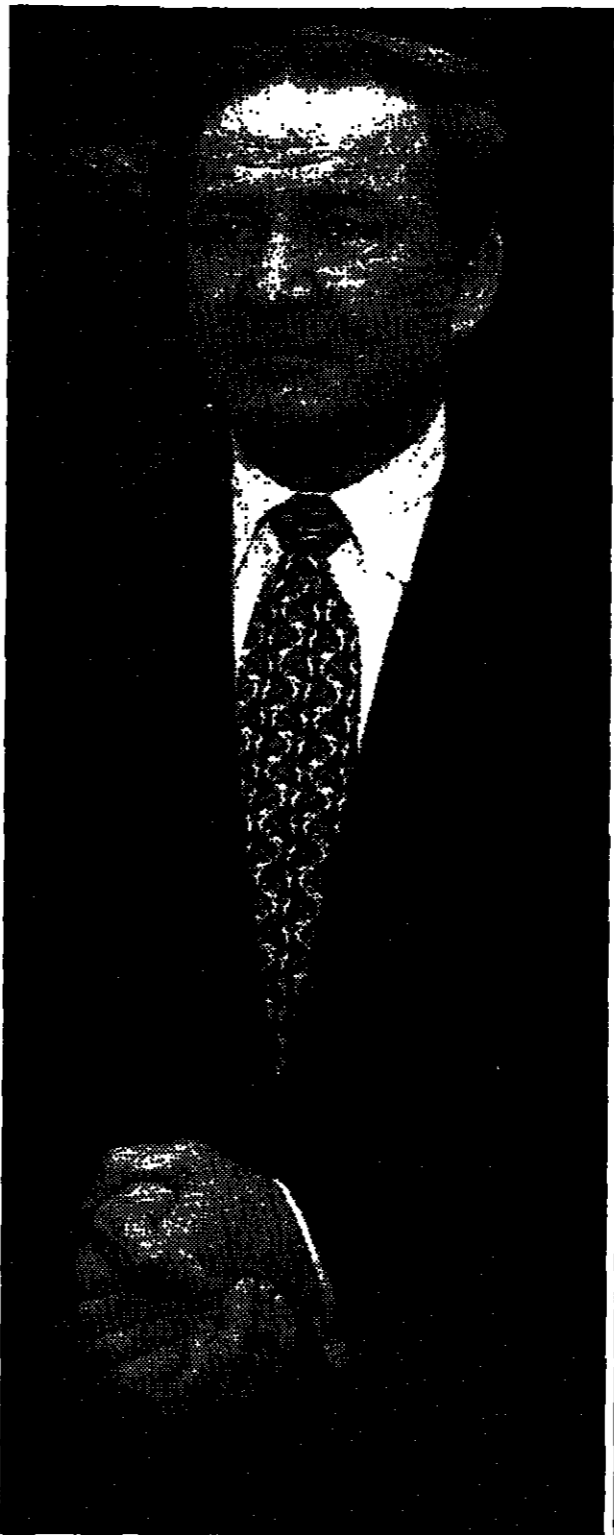
Steve Forbes	34%
Bob Dole	29%
Pat Buchanan	27%
Lamar Alexander	7%

The Schedule

Mar 5: Junior Tuesday	Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Rhode Island & Vermont
Mar 7: New York	
Mar 12: Super Tuesday	Florida, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee & Texas
Mar 19: Ohio, Illinois, Michigan & Wisconsin	
Mar 26: California	

fifth places in Tuesday's primaries, the former Tennessee governor Lamar Alexander is still in the race. "This is now a three-way race, between a centrist candidate of the party establishment in Bob Dole, a very rich social liberal in Steve Forbes, and me as the populist conservative," Mr Buchanan said

yesterday. "If it stays like that, I win," he added. Mr Forbes's Arizona victory now gives him reason, as well as the bottomless pocket, to continue his run through the thicket of eight more primaries in the next seven days. It will be an uphill struggle. Opinion polls of Republicans nationally give Mr Forbes just 5 per cent of their support, against 42 per cent for Mr Dole and 27 per cent for Mr Buchanan. Mr Forbes, who is relatively liberal on abortion and homosexuality, now faces difficult political terrain as the primaries shift to the deeply religious South, which tends to be conservative on social issues. The crucial tests will be South Carolina on Saturday and Georgia on Tuesday. "South Carolina is the key to the kingdom," Mr Dole said, counting heavily on the support of the past and present Republican governors. Their own devout religious credentials may help offset the Buchanan advantage among the 38 per cent of registered Republicans in the state who say they are born-again Christians. Thanks to the Christian Coalition and the anti-abortion movement, Mr Buchanan has a firm base of close to a third of Republican voters in the South, who tend to be far more committed and activist than the average voter. About 2,000 of them crammed into the Cobb County civic centre on Tuesday night, with another 1,300 outside, in the most emotional and impassioned rally of the election year so far. Beside Mr Buchanan on the stage was the octogenarian Lester Maddox, legendary leader of the segregationist movement in Georgia in the 1960s, whose political symbol became the axe handle, the weapon he used to keep blacks out of his restaurant.



Routed... Buchanan concedes defeat in Arizona and steels himself for 'the long march' to nomination

Cuban Brothers to fly back to rescue souls

Phil Gannon in Miami
THE Cuban exiles organisation Brothers to the Rescue will take to the air again on Saturday to lay wreaths and say prayers at the spot where two of its planes were shot down by Cuban fighters: an act of defiant homage Washington fears could lead to open confrontation with Communist Cuba. Below will be a flotilla of small boats organised by the Demogracia group, which has also flirted with danger off the Cuban coast. "This community deserves a good funeral," said the Brothers' founder, José Basulto, pilot of the only plane to return safely. "Mr Basulto seems to be a slow learner," a Pentagon spokesman said, reflecting the defence department's reluctance to become involved in an armed conflict. In the Little Havana district of Miami just off South-West Eighth Street, an eternal flame burns to the memory of the 120 or so Cuban exiles who died in the abortive US-backed Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961.

After Saturday's shooting down by the Cuban air force of two light planes belonging to Brothers to the Rescue, the 700,000 Cuban exiles here have four more martyrs to mourn. But the way they died says much about the way exile politics have evolved in the past 35 years. Alpha 66, the paramilitary group which took up the banner of armed opposition to Fidel Castro after the Bay of Pigs, represents a "small minority" and is "useless for all practical purposes," said Mr Basulto. A few years ago the remark would have been regarded as a blatant betrayal of the anti-Castro cause. But Mr Basulto, who fought at the Bay of Pigs, has unparalleled moral authority in the community as the leader of perhaps its best-loved organisation. "It's really a generational change," said Mari-fel Pérez-Stable, a Cuban-American academic. "Substantial numbers of Cubans in Miami have in principle renounced violence. The people who are willing to invade are too old. Perhaps in their own way they are learning from what happened in eastern Europe — how the governments there were overthrown." Founded in 1991, the volunteer pilots' group has saved hundreds of Cuban boat people from almost certain death in the treacherous shark-infested waters of the 90-mile-wide Florida Strait. But the Brothers' role evolved into a more open — though still non-violent — confrontation with the Castro government after the 1994 refugee crisis, which forced the US to reach an agreement with the Cuban government to halt the mass flight. "There is no provocation here," said Mr Basulto. "We have been exercising our right to fly in international air space. We were victims of a political hit by Fidel Castro." But Mr Basulto said he always knew that they were in danger. And although he had not counted on the planes being shot down, he conceded that the effect of the Brothers' activities — which has in the past included violations of Cuban airspace — was to "provoke that man [Castro] into a rage and into a situation where he has no response".

News in brief

Apartheid minister faces wider charges

SOUTH AFRICA'S former defence minister General Magnus Malan has been charged with a wide-ranging conspiracy to murder in a trial due to open in the Durban Supreme Court next week. David Beresford in Johannesburg writes. The Inkatha leader, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, has been drawn further into the case with evidence of a covert meeting with the general and senior military officers.

Gen Malan and senior officers had been charged with responsibility for a specific charge of 13 people in 1987, allegedly carried out by a "hit squad" trained by military intelligence in Namibia's Caprivi Strip. But in a last minute amendment to the indictment, the attorney-general of KwaZulu-Natal has extended the charges to a general conspiracy to murder politicians supporting the ANC. The

amended charge sheet alleges that further training was given to the Caprivi assassins at a northern Transvaal base. The amended indictment refers to a meeting between Gen Malan, senior officers and Chief Buthelezi in March 1988 at which the defence minister "cautioned Buthelezi as to the sensitivity of their relationship" and warned him that Inkatha "should not be linked to the South African government".

Carlos aide in Berlin trial

JOHANNES WEINRICH, the alleged right-hand man of Carlos the Jackal, went on trial in Berlin yesterday for the bombing in 1983 of a French cultural centre in west Berlin, an event which revealed an operation between East German officials and leftwing terrorists. Mr Weinrich, aged 48, is charged with murder. He is accused of placing a bomb on the fourth floor of the Maison de France which killed a man delivering a petition protesting against nuclear testing in the South Pacific. More than 20 other people were wounded. Mr Weinrich's lawyers attacked the credibility of the evidence and asked for an adjournment. Prosecutors say Mr Weinrich brought the explosives to East Berlin from Romania. They were seized by East German officials. — AP.

New gay attack from Mugabe

PRESIDENT Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe launched a fresh attack against homosexuals yesterday, saying he had the support of some world leaders who dared not condemn gays in their countries for fear of losing votes. He told a meeting of local church pastors that homosexuality should be condemned in the same way people spoke out against alcoholism, drug abuse and prostitution. "Homosexuality has yielded in a number of people who now, because of their numbers, have the courage and boldness to dare politicians," he said. Mr Mugabe has attacked homosexuality since last August when his government pressurised organisers of Zimbabwe's international book fair to bar a local gay association from taking part. — Reuter.

Epidemic toll rises in Nigeria

Epidemics of spinal meningitis, gastroenteritis, cholera and measles have killed at least 15,000 people in northern Nigeria in the past month, Ikechukwu Madubike, the health minister, told the Lagos Guardian yesterday. He said 50 people had died every hour in the past week in Kano, the home state of the country's military ruler, General Sani Abacha. — AP.

Curfew in Lebanon

The Lebanese army ordered an indefinite nationwide curfew, starting at 3am today, before a general strike and planned demonstrations by labour unions in defiance of a government ban. — Reuter.

Diplomat held

Police detained a Rwandan diplomat on Monday, the night Seth Sendashonga, an ousted former interior minister in the Tutsi-led government, was slightly shot and slightly wounded in the Kenyan capital Nairobi, the Rwandan embassy said yesterday. — AP.

Bomb plot charge

Three Egyptians, two of whom are linked to the Islamic group responsible for the New York World Trade Centre bombing in 1993, appeared in a Copenhagen court yesterday on charges of planning bomb attacks in in the Danish capital. — Reuter.

Tourist bugged

A Swedish backpacker in Australia was recovering in hospital yesterday after a cockroach crawled into his ear in a hostel in Sydney and refused to budge. — AP.

Pakistan 'condones killings'

THE independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan yesterday accused the government of condoning extra-judicial killings, persecuting political opponents and tolerating large-scale abuses by Islamic extremists, writes Gerald Bourke in Islamabad. The HRC's annual report described the "state apparatus" as "a notable perpetrator of violence and victimisation". It expressed concern about the political and ethnic violence in Karachi where police and paramilitary

troops are fighting the Mohajir Quami Movement, the city's main party. The clashes claimed more than 2,000 lives last year. "At least 280 of them died either in police custody (apparently from torture) or in supposed encounters with the police," the report said. "There is clear evidence the state has indulged in illegal killings, torture and arrests." Asma Jahangir, the HRC's chairman said. "No one can force a government that kills its own people without recourse to the law."

"I was pregnant when I was caught in a bomb in 1976; I was 18. Two people were killed and I lost an eye. I have a glass eye but it's very sore so I take it out at home. I reckoned the Troubles would never hit our house again."



You've got insurance if Johnny crashes your car. But what if he crashes your hard drive?



That's why you've got to buy an

Omega Ditto Easy 800 drive. It's a cool little red drive that works like insurance for all the stuff on your PC. Applications, files, work, games, everything. Omega's One Step software means you just point and click and the Ditto goes to work backing up your entire hard drive. And while it's working, you can continue to work.

Naturally, installation has been made super simple.

5 minutes is all it takes. All of which has made Omega one of the fastest-growing data storage companies in the world.

So if you don't want to lose all the important stuff on your PC, you can't afford not to get

an Omega Ditto drive. Available in both 800MB or 3.2GB models.

See your computer dealer today. Because, as you very well know, accidents can happen.



BECAUSE IT'S YOUR STUFF:

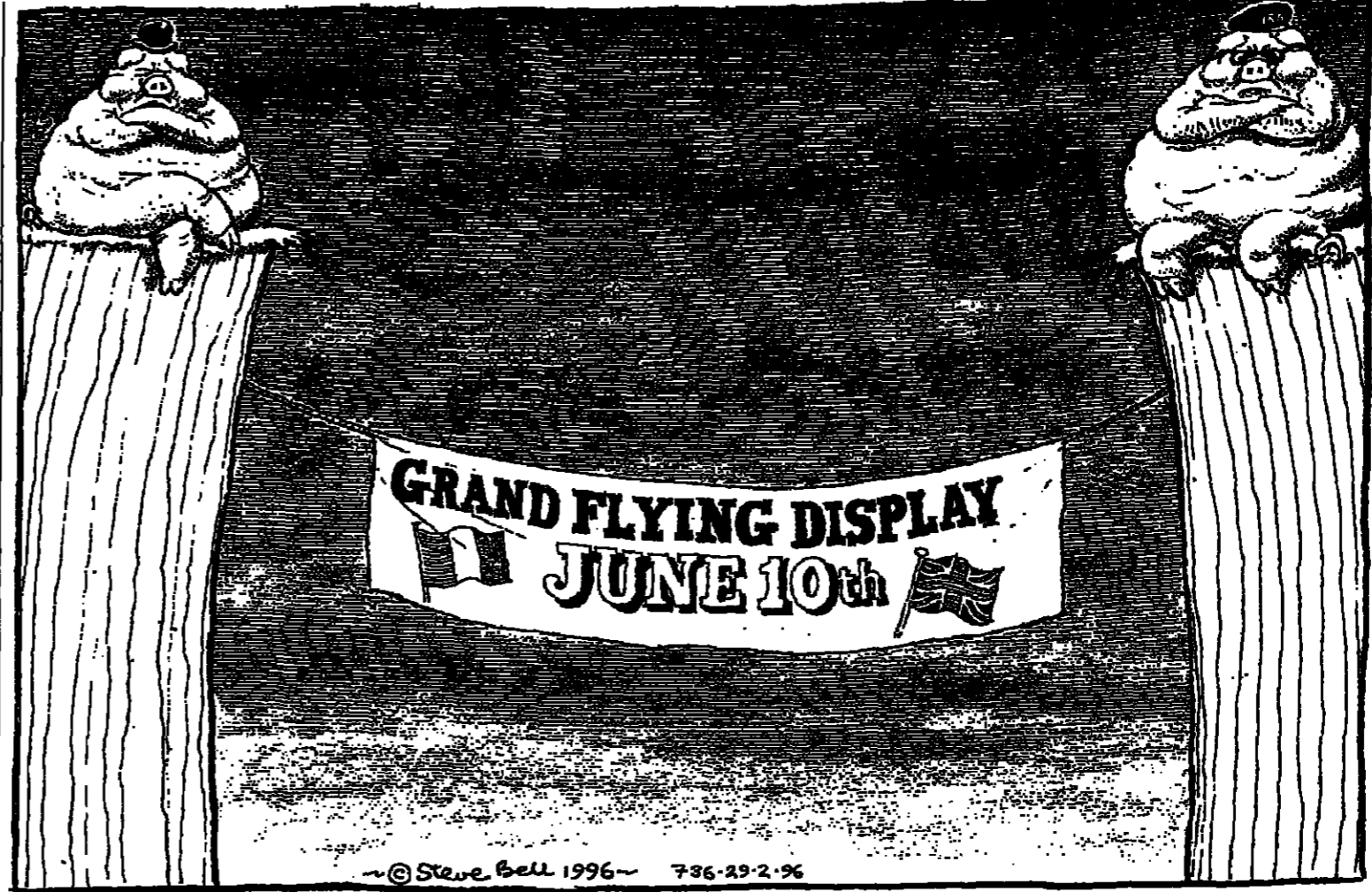
http://www.omega.com

©1995 Omega Corporation. All trademarks are the property of Omega Corporation. Prices listed are recommended retail prices. Actual prices may vary.

The least worst ending
But where does the divorce leave the monarchy?

THIS afternoon in the House of Lords, peers will vote on Lord Mackay's Family Law Bill. As they prepare to cast their votes, their lordships could do worse than reflect on whether they were relieved or outraged when they heard last night's royal divorce announcement. We suspect that, like most of the rest of the country, they were mightily relieved that it had come at last. For the impending royal divorce is surely the most powerful support that Lord Mackay could have sought for his reforms. The royal marriage had broken down. It was irreconcilable. It was causing only grief, not least for the children. Both parties needed to look to the future. There was nothing to be gained for anyone — apart from Mr Murdoch's accountants — from dragging out the misery of those involved for more months. The story will run on in other ways, but the facts had to be faced. This is the least worst way of dealing with a rotten private situation. This one will never go away. Fleet Street news desks will never lose interest in any of those involved. Nor is the royal family yet in the clear after the years of unwelcome publicity for its marital failures. Big players are, by all accounts, even now negotiating to kiss and tell. But last night was at least the interim end of a story which has insinuated its way into the life of the whole British nation for more than a decade. It is also the ultimate humiliation for Buckingham Palace's long-running modernising strategy. The monarchy decided that in order to survive it had to popularise itself. It went public. It opened its lives and its palaces to our greedy gaze. For a few years this was a wildly successful tactic. Britain became a royalist nation with a fervour which was rare in our modern history. But the popularisation strategy has failed. It is hard to know in which direction the troubled House of Wind-

sor can now go with any real dignity. The crisis of the royal marriage is not constitutional but it does have constitutional effects. We make up the legalities of our monarchy as we go along, happily importing a fresh family of provincial Germans every century or so, or whenever the going gets tough. If we choose to change the rules of the monarchy, then we can do so again. We can alter anything through Parliament. If we want to have a divorced monarch we can do that too, though inevitably it creates problems for the established church. But these are all things which a grown-up nation can decide. One of the great unintended consequences of the royal implosion of the past few years is that this debate is no longer marginal or irrelevant. The royal marriages have put the question of the monarchy on the political agenda. For that reason alone it is now absurd to pretend that the constitutional reform debate should or can ignore it. A grown up country accepts the need for divorce and ought to accept the need for a proper debate about the monarchy and its place, if any, in our constitution. The political scientist Vernon Bogdanor has recently written that a constitutional monarchy represents the nation to itself in an emotionally satisfying way. "It alone is in a position to interpret the nation to itself", he writes. But if that is the monarchy's central justification and rationale, then where does that leave the nation now? In what way is it emotionally satisfied as we approach the final tidying away of the dream marriage which now lies shattered before us? The prince and princess tried and failed. That was their personal tragedy. But they were also trying something public on behalf of the nation. That has failed too. At such a turning-point, is it not also time seriously to consider the mechanisms for constructing the British Republic?



Letters to the Editor

Old school, new Labour

ROY HATTERSLEY's contemptuous review of the Blair Revolution book (Bubble 'n' Squeak, February 27) defends the traditional views of social democracy, a model of the world which is unravelling fast. Unemployment is much higher in the UK than in Britain. The Blair Revolution has its limitations. But it has one great merit. The authors understand that a new model is needed and they try to grapple with this problem. Roy is obsessed by structure rather than outcome. On the NHS, he sneers at the idea of using technology to improve the service. But the use of manufacturing concepts to optimise the flow of work in progress, for example, reduced costs in Sweden's largest hospital by 15-20 per cent. Across the UK, this could make an extra \$6 billion available. On education, substantial improvements in performance can only come from a change in attitudes, and not from changes in the structure of, or the level of expenditure on, the public-sector school system. Many of the maths questions which typical 11- or even 16-year-olds find difficult could be taught in a 2000-hour, so elementary as their level. Most Western governments in this century have subscribed to the idea of promoting equality of opportunity by a social-reform programme. But it has failed. The overall pattern of mobility changes is basically no different throughout the West than 75 years ago. There are no theoretical reasons for this outcome, connected with the much misunderstood Hayek and the limits to knowledge in non-linear systems. But the authors of The Blair Revolution are not concerned with deep theory. They are practical men who have made a start, however limited and imperfect, in trying to say what social democracy in the next century should look like. Paul Ormerod, 35 The Avenue, New Richmond, Surrey TW9 5AL.

ROY Hattersley castigates The Blair Revolution for avoiding arguments about structures, particularly in education and focusing on standards. He claims that to ignore structures is about as sensible as the idea that getting across the river is more important than building the bridge to the other side. But crossing the river is more important and arguments about the type of "bridge" — grant-maintained, selective, assisted-place, comprehensive — too often divert attention from what students can be expected to learn and to achieve. The comprehensive structure offers the most for the most people. But its mere availability does not guarantee the highest standards. Nor does diversity resulting from schools developing specialisms. High expectations, skilled teaching and school leadership, strong parental support are the central factors. Andrew Collier, General Secretary, Society of Education Officers, 17-21 Choriton Street, Manchester M1 3HY.

JOHN REDWOOD (Left with no best, February 26) asks why Labour, in power in most education authorities, is not retraining or removing unsatisfactory teachers. The simple answer is that the Conservatives' Education Reform Act of 1988 removed LEAs' power to do so. The responsibility for staffing matters now rests with governing bodies. Mr Redwood also asked why governing bodies with many Labour representatives are not taking this action either. The 1989 Education Act reduced local-authority governors to a minority and, in most places, council appointments reflect party balance. Parent and co-opted community governors do not have to declare their political affiliation. There will therefore be many Conservative Party members on governing bodies with as much influence as Labour supporters. (Cliff) Graham Lane, Association of Metropolitan Authorities, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BJ.

MANDELSON and Liddle appear unaware of contacts which already exist between independent and maintained schools, and of independent schools' extensive involvement in community service. More than half of ISIS-member schools are engaged in community service. Perhaps their pupils are more in touch with what Mandelson and Liddle call "the real world" than are the authors themselves. David J Woodhead, Nat Director, Independent Schools Information Service, 56 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AG.

SCOTT, SOCRATES and some suggestions for Robin Cook. EXACTLY five years after the Gulf war and only days after the publication of the Scott report, you say that a German businessman may have helped Libya to build "an enormous underground poison-gas factory" (News in brief, February 26). Other recent reports speak of Iran acquiring nuclear technology, Turkey and Greece being given hundreds of new tanks out of Nato stock, Ecuador and Peru purchasing huge air forces and even old Saddam Hussein building a new rocket capable of striking southern England with biological agents. What has gone wrong with the intelligence of Western leaders? Can they really be so short-sighted, or are they held hostage by the "jobs-for-my-constituency" lobby? Please allow me, as a suffering, professional watcher of the world, if not as a Kurd, to make a few practical suggestions, particularly for the ears of Robin Cook before he picks his junior ministers for the Foreign Office next year. Given that the world is a more stable place when the major countries of democratic Europe are self-sufficient in top-class weapons, and accepting that shared research and manufacturing make such weapons cheaper, we need greater co-operation inside Europe in those fields. Politicians with interests in the arms trade ought to be excluded from influential ministries, all projected weapons sales ought to be divulged to opposition parties, if not the press, and sanctions ought to be inflicted, with the US and Japan, on such trading partners as Russia and China not to sell weapons or sensitive technology to the likes of Colonel Gaddafi, Saddam Hussein and Ayatollah Khomeini. Hazel Tinsmeurtan, 107 Pall Mall, London SW1.

Giving peace a second chance
This time it needs the widest popular involvement to succeed

YESTERDAY'S joint communiqué from John Major and John Bruton is the most important political development in Northern Irish affairs since the framework document last year. It at last sets out viable procedures which can get all the parties, including Sinn Féin, to the negotiating table to discuss the substantive future of Ulster. The process proposed by the two prime ministers has meant concessions on all sides. But that is exactly what was needed. Why did they have to wait so long? The two governments have done what they should and could have done months ago. It was always in their interests to bring the parties to the table; that was, after all, why they began the whole process. Yesterday's communiqué is a reaffirmation of the high seriousness of that need. But it also contains nothing that could not have been agreed in the autumn. If it had been agreed last September, lives might not have been lost this month. The two premiers went out of their way to stress that they had not been bombed into their new compromise. True up to a point. But it is impossible not to conclude that the IRA bombs have concentrated minds — especially British minds — on the need for a compromise which they had previously opposed. London misjudged the Northern Ireland process over the past six months, and the Conservatives were to some extent encouraged in their misjudgment by the reluctance of the

Labour Party to exert public pressure for the more creative approach which has now been adopted. No one should exaggerate, however. The Northern Ireland peace process is still fragile. Yesterday's announcement cleared some of the political debris out of the way, but not all of it. The governments are still putting preconditions on Sinn Féin, though they are ones which the republicans will find it hard to resist now that a date has been set for talks. The key question now is whether Sinn Féin will endorse the Mitchell report's conditions. A tough approach from the White House on visas and fund-raising would be useful pressure here. Much also remains to be negotiated about the elections and the possible referendum. The elections are essentially a legitimising mechanism for the major unionist parties to take part in the talks. The best form of election would therefore be the one which best facilitates the involvement in the talks of the widest range of parties, especially the minority parties associated with the loyalist paramilitaries. That would probably mean a single constituency basis, with a low threshold of qualification. But the referendum proposal should also be supported. The peace process survives because the people as well as the governments want it, as our poll showed yesterday and, as recent rallies have movingly proved. It is the people's peace, and they should have the chance to give it their strength.

Cuts and thrust

FOR me, Peter Hobday, with the late Brian Redhead, epitomised the heyday of the Today programme, and indeed the best of informed radio journalism. My sincere hope is that his departure does not herald the increasing influence of the Jeremy Paxman style of interviewing, typified by the presentational style of the PM programme on the same station. We are all familiar with the formula: make all questions as short and aggressive as possible; never listen to the reply; always try to cut in with another question before the interviewee has a chance to respond. Now, if the BBC is looking for cutbacks... Peter Bolton, 103 Aire Road, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS22 7JF.

Mind the gap (in your wallet)

THE story of Morine Jeffers' lost-and-found purse sounded very familiar (Making a pig's ear out of a lost purse, February 28). Two weeks ago I left my wallet and gloves on the ticket counter at the Exeter St David station. Upon reaching Waterloo, I phoned Exeter and discovered that my immense relief that the wallet had been found. The next day I returned to Exeter and, after being chattered between various desks, I was finally given an empty wallet. Dismayed, I mentioned to the official that, although the money, some £70, would be missed, it was a relief to not have to replace the credit cards, licences and so on. He then looked in his desk and discovered a note to the effect there was actually £30 removed from the wallet, and I could have it back at yet another desk. "minus 56". There is, he told me, a "reward" of 10 per cent taken from all money found, up to a maximum of £5. Gregory Jones, Lane's Reach, Exminster.

A team coming in from the cold
There's only one way to prove Botham's theory: a cold Test

THE FORMER England all-rounder Ian Botham, said to be the players' choice as the next England cricket supremo, may not have enhanced his prospects with his piece in yesterday's Mirror, suggesting that the present England XI couldn't beat a team of Eskimos. Some may find this a little impetuous. Much, for instance, might depend on the team selections of the Eskimo management, who could in their inexperience do something crass like excluding their best wicketkeeper on the grounds that he couldn't bat, despite overwhelming evidence that he usually made more runs than their specialist batsmen. There is only one way to test Mr Botham's theory, and that is by arranging a match between England and a representative Eskimo side. This proposal is fraught with difficulties. Eskimos come not from one country but several, so an Eskimo team might fall foul of TCCB regulations. The best

compromise might be to allow them to play under the soubriquet Greenland. Also, being famously serious people, the Eskimos might well reject a one day thrash in pyjamas, and insist on a five day encounter under the old-fashioned rules. And since few first class grounds are thought to exist in Eskimo territory, the match would have to be played in this country. This would give the England XI an advantage which could only be compounded were the match to be played in the igloo-melting conditions of an English summer. A temperature of minus 1 degree Celsius, if possible enhanced by a chill factor stiff enough to convey a feeling of 10 degrees below zero, would be a sine qua non for fair competition. We suggest the match is staged next New Year's Day, in Braemar. The Duke of Edinburgh, a one-time leg spinner who frequently spends his winter holidays at Balmoral, might yet be induced to sponsor it.

Into the millennium out of the red

AS THE millennium approaches, Prince Charles cannot be the only person wondering whether there will be more to show from Britain's celebrations than building sites and the need to clear up after the party. With Millennium Commission funds, do we not have an opportunity to help millions of people start the new millennium on a better footing? Four millennia have passed since the Old Testament recorded the tradition of every 50th year being "a year of Jubilee" — when people were set free from debt. With hundreds of millions of people suffering from the consequences of their country being in debt to British institutions, we have a chance to make the year 2000 a year of Jubilee for the people

A Country Diary

BALLYVAUGHAN, Ireland: The dawn came slowly, pouring silver light across the sky, over the quiet waters of the bay. As the light strengthened, multiple shades of grey spread everywhere, toning in with the Burren's grey stone wall, its hills with their patches of morning mist. The peace was tangible, "dropping from the walls of the morning" (Yeats), the peace of natural things. However, the people of the village (population 400 about), like slightly over 98 per cent of our Republic, resolved to make a stand for peace. We decided that we, like those in the big centres, would march for peace on February 25. So, at 3pm, we gathered with others from surrounding areas in the centre of Ballyvaughan — we, the people, elderly, middle-aged, young and children, with our home-made placard: Give Back Our Peace — Stop Killing. One little girl had designed her own poster: the

Cuba lever

IT IS ironic that the US administration should describe Cuba's shooting down of two planes belonging to Cuban exiles as "uncivilised behaviour" just after confiscating 400 computers bound for the Cuban health service. The Clinton administration would do better to turn its attention to the Rev Lucius Walker and four of his colleagues who are fasting on the US-Mexican border for the release of the computers and the right of Cuba to order its own affairs. (Rev Fr) Geoffrey Bottoms, St Thomas of Canterbury and the English Martyrs, 18 Garsfield Road, Preston, Lancashire PR1 1NA.

Upton Jack side by side with the Irish tricolour, a hand from each flag reaching to clasp the other. With Father Kelly we marched, on a cold, glitteringly sunny day, standing for a minute's silence for the victims of terrorism (Canary Wharf and the Aldwych bus bomb in all our minds). Then the Lord's Prayer was said and we dispersed. Yet again this marvellous region on Ireland's western coast manifested its worth, its cost in the grand numbers taking part in the openness of our demand for peace, our hands carrying nothing but paper posters. There was a lovely, easy unity among us. The intelligence to uphold our democracy — allied to innocent, dead and wounded — impelled us, minds and hearts beating as one, to walk hand in hand. "Still in thy right hand carry gentle peace" (Shakespeare). SARAH POYNTEZ

Handwritten Arabic text: كتاب من القرآن

Diary Matthew Norman

PRAISE be to God... a positive sighting of my previously missing friend Dr Julian Lewis at Inst. Alan, the radio ham of Fry Central Office...

WITH exemplary timing, a minister designed to mislead the Commons on the very day it voted on Scott. Asked by Lepus's Neil Cerrard how my Valentine's be got from us of the Gospel Oak to Baking Line...

DESPITE Shagger's best effort, today's show was stolen by my friend Rupert Mason, the most litigious man in all England...

NOT everyone is as convinced as Rupert, but it seems by the Government's side on arms to Iraq. In light of the Scott report, the Cooperative Bank wishes to restate...

KEVIN McKenzie's clever plan to take Le Teven further upmarket by employing newscasters with severe stammes makes my bag bulge. One of countless letters comes from a notable religious figure on the kosher leprehead of his high office...

STILL Peter Bottomley refuses to name 'the journalist' he denounced in Parliament last week, and still rumours sweep through Fleet Street. Yesterday, it was former Godie William Oddie and Led Rees Mogg...



Blair sacrifices liberty in search of power

Commentary Hugo Young

HARD cases are the test of libertarian principles. It's pretty easy for a British politician to speak and vote in favour of free speech...

abnormal, and allegedly essential, police and ministerial powers against the terrorist. These powers are draconian. Terrorist suspects can be held for seven days without a court hearing...

of executive restraint were unacceptable. For this admirable stance, successive shadow home secretaries endured crude accusations of sleeping with the enemy...

Blair spoke for it. They weren't against an anti-terrorist law as such, but Blair argued eloquently for 'judicial intervention' before a detainee under the PTA was kept inside for more than four days...

And what, more pressingly, of a Labour Home Secretary if it falls to him to receive the Lloyd report? The omens are telling. If pending Lloyd, the party's official line is that it will now countenance both exclusion orders and judge-free seven-day detentions...

Andrew Foster explains why today's Audit Commission report calls for changes in police practice, with a revitalised role for the beat bobby

Stroll on, Dixon

ALMOST every survey of public attitudes to the police records a demand for 'more bobbies on the beat'...

ute to a feeling that the streets are unsafe. Officers on patrol also symbolise lawful authority at a time when people are increasingly concerned about the erosion of values in society...



We need a partnership between police, community and other agencies. For example, youths congregating on street corners sometimes appear intimidating, especially to older or vulnerable people...

cent. The 999 system is critical to public confidence in the police, but a high proportion of calls are not emergencies...

changing along with our society. People are using services in different ways. How many of us go to our bank for every transaction? The evidence is clear...

As Princess Diana starts the final act, Norman Stone blames it on the Battenbergs Goodbye Charles, Hello! Falklands

WE WERE told that 85 per cent 'proved' of Princess Diana's appearance on Panorama, airing her woes, three months ago...

Countess Spencer, it is Evelyn Waugh's Bolter, on her third marriage. The Windsors should know about blood-lines. Why was this elementary rule broken?

Hanoverians were acceding, the religious divide between Catholic and Protestant was all-important. Provision was therefore made that the crown should not be worn by a Catholic...

of a palace: the women, more often than not, just putting up with things for the sake of the children and the religion. Yet Prince Charles could not marry a Catholic princess...

Renaissance would have slipped her a Borgias Special. Those options are not open to us, nowadays, and, since she is the mother of a future king...

Bringing out the woman in New Labour



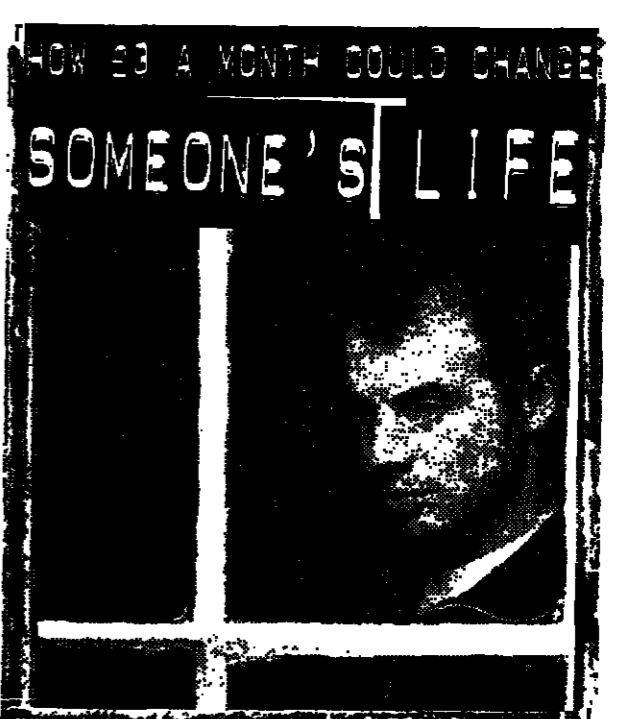
Natasha Walter

IN THE Beveridge Report that laid the foundations of the welfare state, women were seen only as mothers. They ensured 'the adequate continuance of the British race'...

which is particularly acute for low-skilled men. There is certainly a crisis of employment opportunity in Britain, but it is certainly not confined to low-skilled men. Why is the average independent income of a woman half that of a man's?

New Labour has been freshly defined for us in The Blair Revolution, by Blair's close adviser Peter Mandelson and Roger Liddle. This, as correspondents have already pointed out, combines vague policy pronouncements with human interest, provided by snappy tales of five families...

Does all this suggest to us that New Labour's rhetoric about the family is pulling them away from responding positively to women's changing lives? The new policies that Mandelson plays with say nothing to young women looking to an equal future. The marriage grant — once suggested by Beveridge — is a simoniac inspired by such rhetoric...



MS is a disease of the central nervous system. It can affect a person's mobility, co-ordination, sight, and, above all their independence. The MS Society exists to provide practical and emotional support and fund vital research for people living with this devastating disease...

Pat Smythe

Vaulting ambition

PAT SMYTHE, who has died aged 87, opened the door for women into the man's world of show jumping in the 1940s.

When she caused a television programme to over-run its time from the Horse of the Year Show in 1949...

Every successful jump Smythe made was a pioneering leap for women in sport

She was years ahead of Judy Grinham, Mary Rand and Virginia Wade, as swimming, athletics and tennis had some sort of feminine past...

She took succour from all facets of life and her spirit enriched those about her.

They won mountains of prize money for her but never by the whip or the brutal shaver; gentle firmness was the way she communicated the winning message.

Her other life in Switzerland came from a meeting with Sam Koechlin, a student at the LSE in the fifties...



Gentle persuasion... Pat Smythe with Tosca, one of a trio of famous mounts

under 60 to have a hip replacement - both were done - and the success of the operations meant her to say once "I own fall off a horse" the other day with no ill effects.

Peter Dimmock, former general manager BBC outside broadcasts, writes Showjumping became one of our major televised sports during the main period of Pat Smythe's fame.

other circumstances and find that she was very gentle, and you would never believe she was the world renowned rider.

W R Lee

Giving the word to the world



Lee... English pioneer

THE teaching of English as a foreign language (EFL) has grown over the past 50 years into a massive enterprise...

In 1967, the International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language, which has provided the main focus and forum for developments in the field.

Teaching English is very different from the profession he embarked on in 1946, in part due to his efforts. That profession owes him a debt of gratitude.

H G Widdowson

W R Lee, language teacher, born April 3, 1911; died February 5, 1996

Terence Armstrong

Our friend in the far north

TERENCE Armstrong, who has died aged 75, was Britain's leading expert on the Russian Arctic, whose support of Cambridge's Scott Polar Research Institute for more than 36 years contributed largely to the department's reputation as a centre of excellence.

Educated at Winchester and Magdalene College, Cambridge, he took first class honours in French and Russian, and was supervised by that legendary Russian teacher Dr (now Dame) Elizabeth Hill.

Postwar he was the Scott Institute's first research fellow in Soviet Arctic studies, a post established on the reasoning that the Russians knew more about the Arctic than anyone else.

Soviet northern sea route - the old Northeast Passage - for his 1962 thesis, before examining the economic effects of sea ice on the route and carrying out studies for the Royal Navy Scientific Survey.

In 1975, following the incorporation of the Institute into the university, Armstrong was appointed an assistant director of research. Despite the additional duties he wrote Russian Settlement in the North (1965), contributed to the Illustrated Glossary of Snow and Ice (1966), and travelled throughout the Canadian north and the Soviet Arctic.

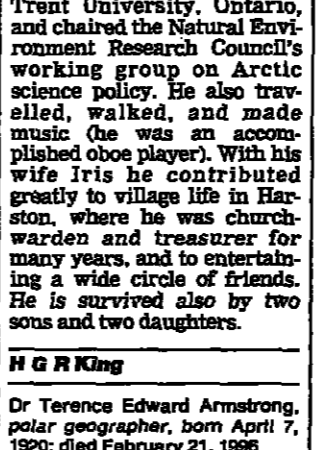
A 1970-72 sabbatical at the University of Alaska led to seminars on cross cultural education with representatives of the indigenous northern peoples.

awarded an ad hominem readership in Arctic studies. He was a founder-fellow of Clare Hall graduate college, and for 25 years was joint honorary secretary of the Hakluyt Society, for whom he edited an edition of Yermak's voyages (1978).

After retirement in 1983, he was a visiting professor at Trent University, Ontario, and chaired the Natural Environment Research Council's working group on Arctic science policy.

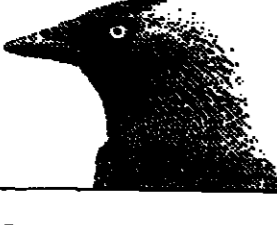
Dr Terence Edward Armstrong, polar geographer, born April 7, 1920; died February 21, 1996

seminal work on the Arctic region, which he had been working on for many years, and to entertaining a wide circle of friends. He is survived also by two sons and two daughters.



Armstrong... polar scholar

Jackdaw



Cop that

ONE afternoon I was out shopping with two mates who are also black. Just after 4 o'clock we stopped off at a pub called the Murderer's Arms.

The humiliation was hard to take but we walked straight through them and down the hill.

I didn't see the first missile but I heard it alright. It was a chunk of concrete about the size of a bowling ball and it landed a foot away from where I was walking.

The attack only lasted five minutes or so and then they ran off, but it seemed like forever. It's a miracle none of us were hurt. There was no sign of the police so we walked home numb with shock.

reporting the incident to the police, was charged and tried along with his attackers on a charge of violent disorder.

After spending six months in prison, he was freed on appeal.

Lost in space

THERE IT is again. Some clueless fool talking about the "information superhighway". They don't know jack about the Net. It's nothing like a superhighway. That's a bed metaphor.

Vandewalker to the Ideas For section of Wired.

Free Barbie!

I AM writing to defend children playing with Barbie. In the absence of less ridiculously shaped adolescent girl dolls, I think that Barbies and Sindy's provide good props for children who naturally want to try out different roles.

The real value my daughter gets out of her Sindy's and Barbies is being able to experiment with what it feels like to be a bit older; a teenager or a young woman.

and stepfathers. Having a few dolls opens up potential for much more complex games. These games are very much imaginative play and can last for hours.

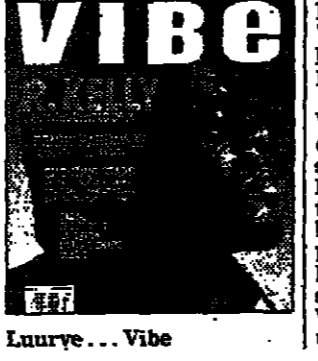
I don't know what effect the image of Sindy's and Barbies has had or may have on her. I remember being absolutely thrilled when at the age of 10 I was given a doll with breasts. There was something so forbidden and thrilling about it, and I named it after the most sexually mature girl I knew, a friend's older sister.

Loving Whitney

IN MY MIND, eyes, and heart, I know that what we have in Whitney Houston is a bona fide black woman. Ain't nothing cooler than the black

woman standing behind her man, universally harmonising and functioning as a black family should. We all know and understand that friction causes movement.

SHOULD we just go ahead and change Whitney's name



Laurve... Vibe

Daniel Chipenda

Constant to the struggle

DANIEL Chipenda, who has died aged 64, was a key player in Angola's struggle for liberation from Portugal.

Born in Lobito, southern Angola, his father was an evangelical preacher and nationalist. In 1954 Chipenda was selected by Lisbon's Benfica soccer team and travelled to Portugal where he became associated with the budding anti-colonial movement and its theorists Amilcar Cabral, Agostinho Neto and Mario Pimpo de Andrade.

On the eve of independence in 1975, the MPLA split three ways, with each faction claiming to have won a leadership election - Chipenda the Eastern Revolt faction.

When Neto triumphed, Pimpo de Andrade went into exile in Luanda until his resignation in the 1980s. Chipenda and his supporters made a tactical alliance with Holden Roberto's FNLA, against both UNITA and Neto's MPLA.

Chipenda was a diabetic who had a long struggle with alcoholism. During a low ebb in the mid-eighties he accepted - reportedly in exchange for a substantial sum - an offer by the MPLA government to return, as an example to other emigrés.

Another Day

February 29, 1920: Oh, to be a writer, a real writer given up to it and to it alone. Oh, I failed today; I turned back, looked over my shoulder, and immediately it happened. I felt as though I too were struck down. The day turned cold and dark on the instant. It seemed to belong to summer twilight in London, to the clang of the gates as they close the garden, to the deep light patting the high houses, to the smell of leaves and dust, to the lamplight to

Birthdays

Joss Ackland, actor, 68; Mario Adretili, grand prix driver, 56; Sir David Beattie, former general of New Zealand, 72; Major John Bingham, brother of Lord Lucan, 82; Gretchen Christophers, rock singer, 56; Baroness Lydia Dunn, iron lady of Hong Kong, 56; Hermione Lee, writer, broadcaster and literary critic, 48; Anthony Lingard, former director-general, St John Ambulance Association, 80; Alan Lovelace, violinist, 86; Michele Morgan, film actress, 76; Henrik Sandstrom, Swedish tennis player, 32; Albert Walling, actor, 44.

In Memoriam

ROSE MARJORIE van Lambart. Born 22.2.1906. A loving wife, sister and friend.

Births

Stella Francesca Felicia Travers, on February 29th, 1996, wonderful daughter for Jane and Andrew and sister for John and William.

Deaths

MICHAEL BLENWORTH, born 20 January 1921, journalist and author. Died at a long illness, probably borne on 29th February, 1996, at his home, 37th March. Golden Grove Crematorium at 12.00pm.

VEREY, Doris Jane (Percy) on 27th February at Rosemount nursing home, Newcastle, after a long illness with her legendary courage (win of a gold medal for her services in the subject to civil law, Gruffydd Iod and daughter of Anthony, mother of Angela and grandchildren of Mrs. J. J. Jones. Funeral on 4th March, 2.45. Downmore Crematorium, Newcastle. Flowers to Family, 37 High Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Westmorland or subscription to Amnesty International.

Speculation g

Land to surre

To

17/0

P

017

017

sualties in
ange prom

Gas

B

ivate
perpit
is big
ouble

017

017

017

017

017

017

017

017

017

017

017

017

017

017

017

017

017

017

017

Casualties in battle for diminishing Navy contracts, page 12

Orange promises a bonanza to investors, page 12

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Gas prices face new curbs

Chris Barrie

BRITISH Gas is facing a price crackdown amid suggestions by the industry watchdogs that the embattled energy giant has salted away £2.5 billion since privatisation for investments not needed for at least the next 15 years.

demanding an inquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Ms Spottiswoode said the cap on prices charged to domestic customers was also likely to be tightened to reflect the fact that costs were being driven down by competition.

bill had risen by half last year, while standards of boiler servicing had been "truly atrocious". Speaking at yesterday's official publication of the Ofgas annual report, Ms Spottiswoode said more than £2.5 billion had been accumulated by TransCo for investment despite the fact the expenditure would not be needed until 2010.

new limits from April next year. They have to be fixed by August. An Ofgas official said last night that the £2.5 billion at issue represented the difference between the funds currently spent replacing the pipeline system and the funds BG has set aside for long-term replacement. BG, under no obligation to ringfence the funds, has used them for other investments, some of them overseas.

that BG adjust its prices for the next five years so as to close the gap between spending and income. Such a move would cut TransCo revenues — one of BG's most profitable operations — by 20 per cent, either by a one-off cut in charges, or through the RPI-X formula, or a combination of the two.

Commission cleared its use of asset depreciation — the source of the £2.5 billion — when it investigated the company in 1992. Ringfencing would be resisted because the funds belonged to shareholders, not customers. Ms Spottiswoode may also tighten the cap on domestic tariffs, though after this latest review competition should drive down prices and make capping unnecessary.

Notebook

Injecting more openness is vital



Edited by Alex Brummer

BANK Governor Eddie George is right to suggest that many of the problems of financial regulation could be resolved by increased emphasis on disclosure, education and training by those working in the financial services industry.

facade it was with the flotation details for Orange. Shares are being offered in a range putting a putative price tag of between \$2.2 billion and \$2.4 billion on the group. That compares with analysts' valuations of about \$2.8 billion although some enthusiasts have topped the \$3 billion mark.

Clearly, Orange and its shareholders are free to put whatever price they want on the shares. But just as clearly they are frittering away money by paying £41 million — 6.5 per cent of the total flotation proceeds — to advisers and underwriters for little or no risk whatsoever.

Sting in the tail

PRESIDENT Chirac's decision last week to force a marriage contract between state-owned Aerospatiale and the private aircraft-maker Dassault has raised hopes on the other side of the Rhine that the tortuously slow moves to turn the Airbus consortium into a proper commercial company can be speeded up.

These, as BAE also recognises, will probably be from the Far East as Airbus needs as much as \$100 million to develop the A3XX, a challenger to the 30-year-old Boeing 747, the world's only supplier of 400-seat passenger jets. Daimler is thinking of going all the way with a double-decker Airbus capable of carrying 600 passengers to meet an expected tripling of demand in the next 20 years.

Private superpit hits big trouble

Soumas Milne Labour Editor

THE future of Asfordby Colliery, expected in the 1990s to be one of the highest-producing superpits of the future, has been thrown into doubt after RJB Mining announced yesterday that it was writing off the colliery's £78 million asset value in response to difficult geological conditions.

Richard Budge, RJB's chief executive, said he was giving the Leicestershire pit bought from the Government as part of the December 1994 coal privatisation deal — "one last go".

A decision would be taken in the next nine months. Asfordby, which employs 400 miners, was developed by British Coal, but was never brought into production under public ownership. Mr Budge said RJB spent £40 million on the Vale Beauvoir pit last year, but cut only 350,000 tonnes of coal and lost £16 million at the mine in the second half of last year.

The company said that overall profit and output targets for 1995 had been reached by good performance at its other 20 deep-mine collieries. RJB's 1995 turnover was estimated at £1.4 billion, with coal sales of 41 million tonnes and production of 37 million tonnes — 80 per cent of which came from the company's deep mines.

RJB reserves have increased to 488 million tonnes — excluding Asfordby's estimated \$2 million — and a further \$38 million of acquisition bank debt was repaid in the second half of last year, reducing the total to \$55 million, compared with \$280 million a year earlier. The company has repaid £12 million of the £117 million deferred purchase price to the Government.



On the ball... 'You should invest in a business that even a fool can run, because some day a fool will,' says Warren Buffett, the world's richest man.

Meet the sixteen billion dollar man

Mark Tran reflects on the life and times of a financier who has put Bill Gates in the middle-income bracket

WARREN BUFFETT, the investment guru from Omaha, Nebraska, has overtaken Microsoft's Bill Gates to become the world's richest businessman. Mr Buffett breezed past his fellow billionaire and friend after a surge in shares of Berkshire Hathaway, the investment vehicle he controls.

Mark Tran reflects on the life and times of a financier who has put Bill Gates in the middle-income bracket

icahn, are alien to Mr Buffett, who has attained sage-like status — not through speculation, but by buying large stakes in companies and holding on to them. His reluctance to sell has become almost a statement of principle. He invests in companies with a proven track record for making profits, and especially ones that have dominant and enduring franchises with "moats around them", such as Coca-Cola, Gillette, the Washington Post, and Capital Cities/ABC, recently acquired by Disney.

Mark Tran reflects on the life and times of a financier who has put Bill Gates in the middle-income bracket

can run, because some day a fool will. In keeping with his belief in knowing about what you invest in, Mr Buffett gives a wide berth to technology companies like Intel or Microsoft, which formed so well last year. Berkshire Hathaway's nondescript office buildings in Omaha do not even have computers. A phenomenal mind for numbers, and the advice of his partner, Charles Munger, have helped Mr Buffett pick winners.

Speculation grows Hongkong Land to surrender Trafalgar

Paul Murphy

AHASTILY arranged set of three-party meetings took place yesterday over the future ownership of Trafalgar House amid growing speculation that Jardine Matheson offshoot Hongkong Land is ready to surrender control of the cruise liners and construction conglomerate.

To advertise in The Guardian please call 0171 239 9735

Lawrence claims coup lost him his Stock Exchange job

Dan Atkinson

OSTED Stock Exchange chief executive Michael Lawrence told MPs last night of the "coup", led by top market-makers, that lost him his job in January. He told the Treasury Select Committee that BZW and Merrill Lynch were the prime movers behind a revolt against his plans to modernise the Exchange.

Mr Lawrence had been looking at the possibility of introducing an "order-driven" trading mechanism to sit alongside the current "quote-driven" machinery, which is dominated by the market-makers. He affirmed yesterday that he was not advocating a purely order-driven system, but believed London should look at all possibilities in the interests of maintaining its dominant position.

Bank of England to strengthen regulatory arm in Barings wake

Larry Elliott and Richard Thomas

THE Bank of England is planning to boost its supervisory arm following an in-depth probe into its regulatory structure following the Barings collapse. Eddie George, the Bank's Governor, will accept the report from a team of outside consultants, due out in May, which has found that the Bank needs more manpower to cope with the demands of policing an ever-more sophisticated financial system.

supervision will have to be paid for by savings elsewhere in the Bank, although it is assumed that these can be met by efficiencies and natural wastage. Despite the criticism levelled at the Bank in the year since Barings, Mr George last night defended the UK model of financial regulation and argued against moving to an American-style "super regulator".

Local shops may be back next to the petrol pumps

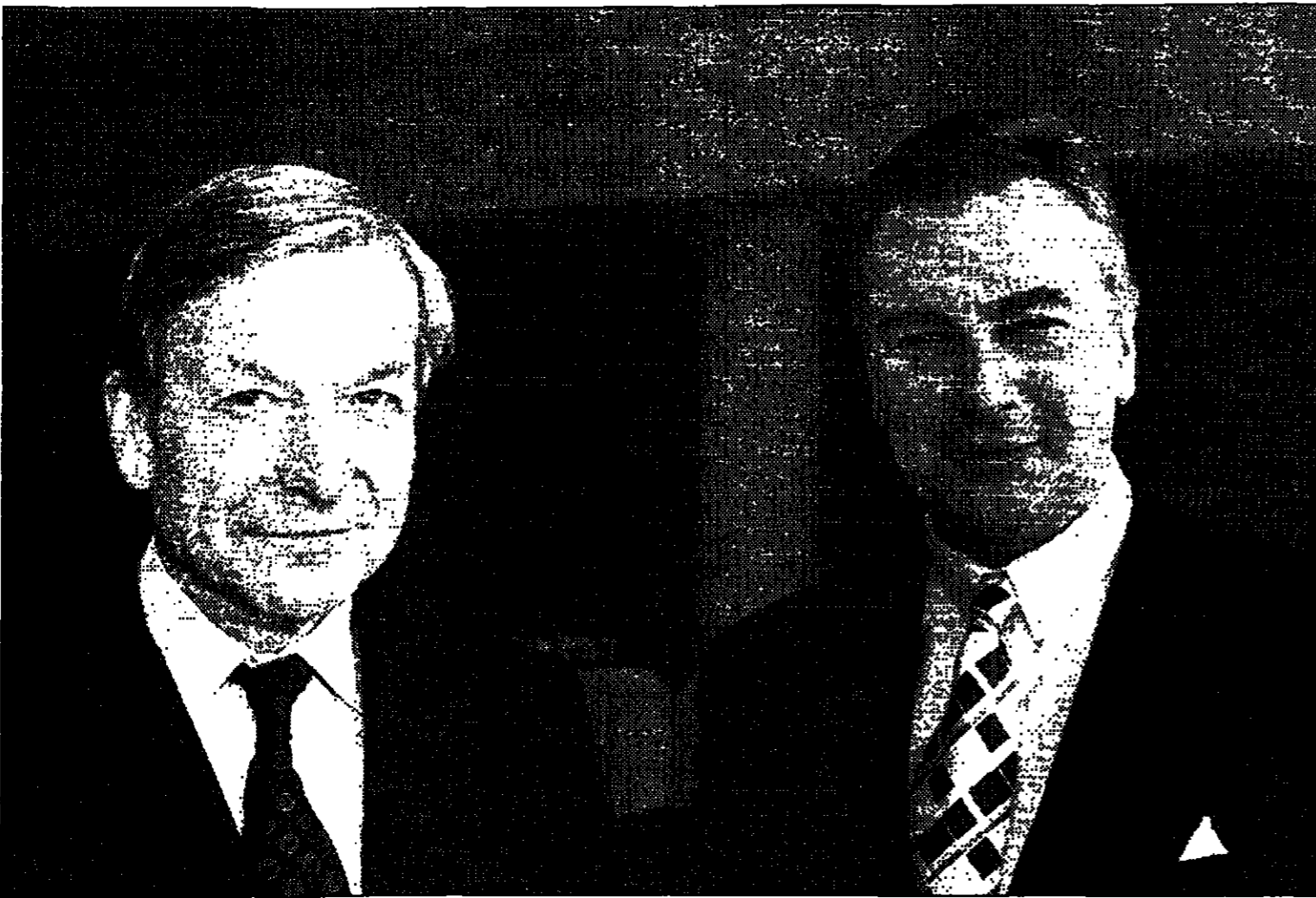
Roger Cowe

LOCAL shops, wiling under pressure from supermarkets for 30 years, could stage a comeback, according to retail consultants Verdict Research. But shoppers are more and more likely to find them on petrol station forecourts.

But the research warns that much of local shopping provision might come from national chains, including the petrol retailers. Petrol station forecourts benefit from the long opening hours ideal for local shops, but they currently suffer from lack of space. Verdict predicts that petrol companies will therefore begin building larger shop units on their forecourts.

Table with columns: TOURIST RATES - BANK BELLS, Australia 1.87, Austria 15.15, Belgium 44.50, Canada 2.06, Cyprus 0.70, Denmark 8.41, Finland 8.86, France 7.41, Germany 2.1800, Greece 364.00, Hong Kong 11.70, India 54.70, Ireland 0.825, Israel 4.77, Italy 2.330, Malta 0.54, Netherlands 2.4500, New Zealand 2.25, Norway 9.53, Portugal 226.50, Saudi Arabia 5.74, Singapore 2.13, South Africa 5.68, Spain 182.50, Sweden 10.15, Switzerland 1.76, Turkey 97.367, USA 1.5050

Shares rise as buoyant bank announces pre-tax profits of £661 million



'Hardest punching middleweights'... Chairman Patrick Gillam and chief executive Malcolm Williamson

Standard rejects bid talk

Standard Chartered is still in talks with Asian buyers of its securities business, which is thought to have been responsible for the bulk of the loss. Growth of personal banking in Asia outside Hong Kong pushed up the region's contribution to profits to a third. But Hong Kong still accounts for another third of profits, raising fears about the future in the light of the colony's transfer to China next year.

Orange pitches its flotation price deliberately low

ORANGE, the mobile phones firm, yesterday promised a bonanza to investors after setting the price of its shares up to a fifth lower than market analysts had suggested they were worth. The company, which plans to float 25 per cent of its equity in the stock market on April 2, said yesterday that it would invite offers for shares at between 175p and 205p.

Yarrow boost hits Vosper

YARROW Shipbuilders was yesterday awarded the Royal Navy's final contract for three Type-23 frigates, bringing huge relief to the Clyde and putting a question mark over the long-term future of rival bidders Vosper Thornycroft.

News in brief

Drought crisis costs water firm £47m

THE relentless drought in the central Pennines is to knock a £47 million hole in Yorkshire Water's accounts for the current year, the company announced yesterday in a statement issued to shareholders.

Hanson deal raises \$500m

HANSON yesterday raised \$500 million from the sale of part of its Cavenham timber interests, a price which exceeded what observers have been expecting.

Almost Total share sale

THE French government is selling 99 per cent of its stake in the Total oil company, the finance ministry said yesterday.

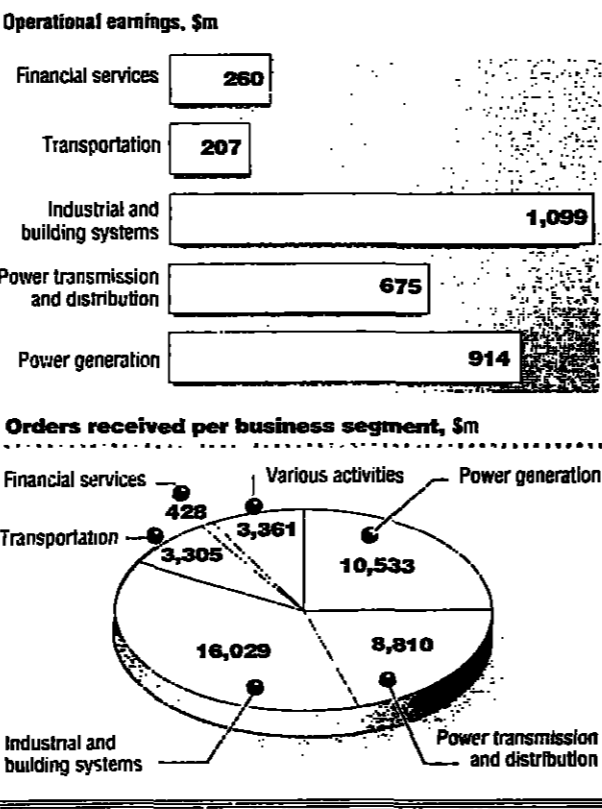
Thai aircraft contract

ROLLS-ROYCE and General Electric are to benefit from a \$5 billion (£3.25 billion) aircraft deal being negotiated by the Thai state airline.

Japan bank writes off £5bn

TOKAI, one of Japan's largest banks, is to write off about 800 billion yen (£5 billion) of problem loans this year in a move to bring its bad debts under control.

ABB Group 1995



Rail tunnel collapse helps blow hole in BICC figures

ABLE and construction group BICC has slumped to a \$97 million loss after exceptional losses and provisions, including up to £10 million for the Heathrow Express rail project where the tunnel collapsed just over a year ago.

Swiss get into bed with Swedes

managing director of Goldmann Sachs International, and Lodewijk van Wachem, chairman of Royal Dutch Petroleum.

The Underside Dan Atkinson

THE temperature in the cold war between Gordon Brown and the Institute for Fiscal Studies has risen a few degrees after their rather public spat at the time of the Budget.



Newb for Wi

N

Follow with

Results

TAUNTON

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

FA CUP FIFTH ROUND

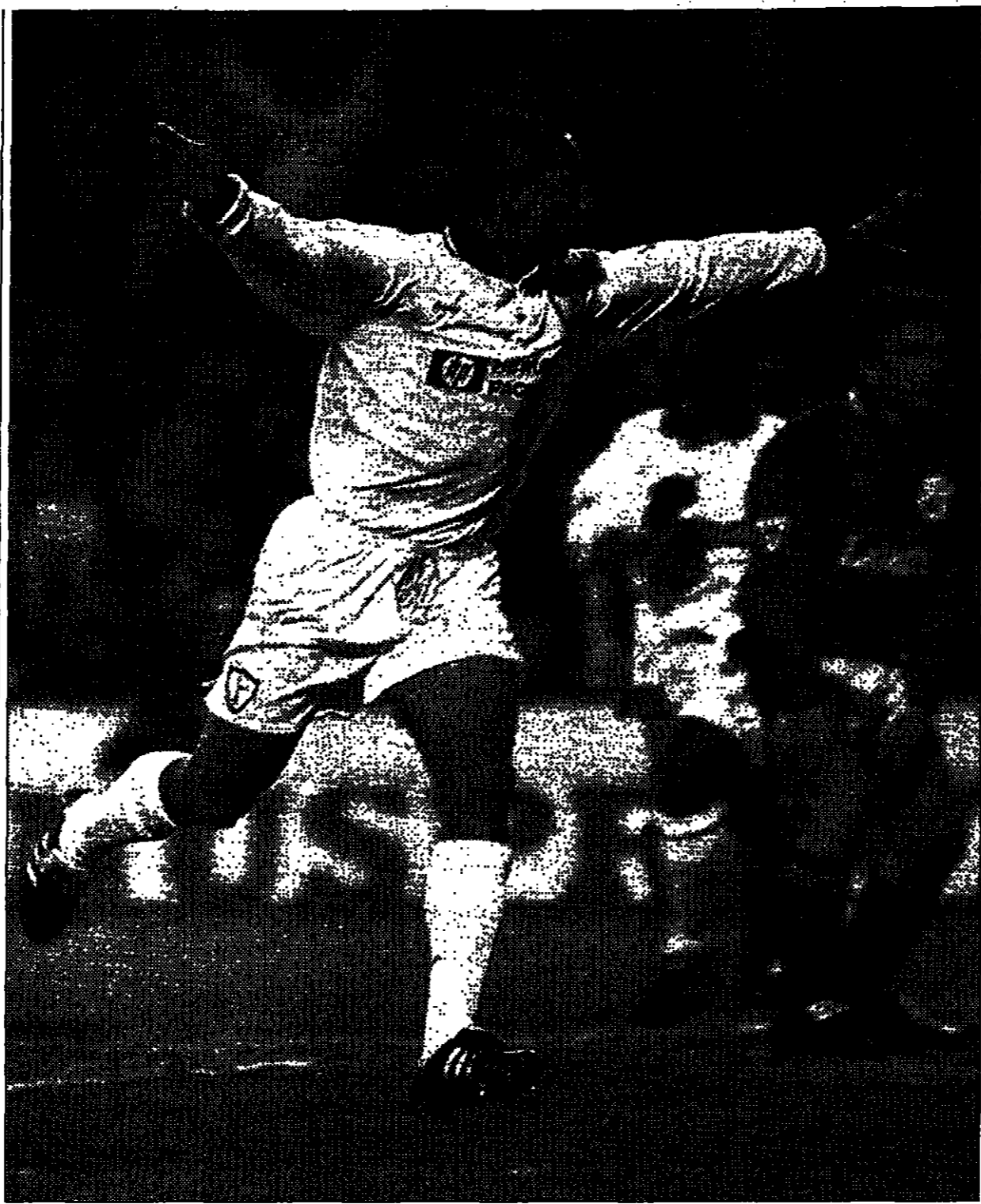
Nottingham Forest 2, Tottenham Hotspur 2

Woan finds shots of inspiration

David Lacey

TWO free-kicks from the left foot of Ian Woan both inspired and revived Nottingham Forest at the City Ground last night...

wood's long kick with a nod across goal for the unmarked Armstrong to glance the ball past Crossley.



Lift off... Armstrong celebrates his first goal and Spurs equaliser at the City Ground

Liverpool 2, Charlton Athletic 1

Collymore has killer touch

Ian Ross

THERE is nothing quite like the experience, particularly in the rarified atmosphere of the FA Cup...

terly compelling, Charlton wobbled as early as the second minute and by the time Liverpool had eased themselves in front on 12 minutes...

Replay: Chelsea 4, Grimsby Town 1

Duberry blooms in Chelsea show

Martin Thorpe

THE Mariners were fish out of water at Stamford Bridge last night. Chelsea gave the First Division side a thoroughly professional battering...

brave and agile saves to deny. In order, Peacock, Wise, Spencer and Peacock again.

Replay: Wimbledon 3, Huddersfield Town 1

Goodman leaves Terriers gasping

Jeremy Alexander

FOR the third round Frunning, Wimbledon won a replay at Selhurst Park and they can look forward to making it four in the next round against Chelsea...

Ekoku's pace made a mockery of a supposed groin injury as he continued to trouble the defence.

the angled running of Collins, Jepsen and Booth but shots were hurried and astray until Jepsen skimmed the bar from a distance.

Replay: Southampton 2, Swindon Town 0

Matt mark II sets up Southampton's away day to Old Trafford

Paul Weaver

SOUTHAMPTON, with Second-half goals from Matthew Oakley and Neil Shipperley, ultimately won with some comfort against a resolute Swindon side...

The Second Division leaders, with five men at the back and midfielders and forwards always available to man the sandbags...

Southampton went ahead three minutes later. Colverhouse underhit his back pass to let in Watson...

Results

Table with soccer results for various leagues including FA Cup, First Division, and Football League.

Table with results for various sports including Rugby Union, Tennis, and Athletics.

Table with fixtures and results for various sports including Basketball, Ice Hockey, and Cycling.

Premiership: Aston Villa 2, Blackburn R0

Superior Villa have final say

Stephen Bierley

ONCE a team has reached Wembley there is almost inevitably a period, however brief, when the players find it extremely difficult to relax their game.

record at Wood Park — 11 championship wins out of 14 — to secure a decent place in this largely disappointing post-championship season.

Rich is ready to move for £3.5 million Stubbs

Ian Ross

PROCE RIOCH'S restructuring of the Arsenal squad could begin with a renewed bid for Bolton's defender Alan Stubbs.

ful because he has figured in more than 75 per cent of Switzerland's internationals during the past 12 months.

Nic

soffs

Miska

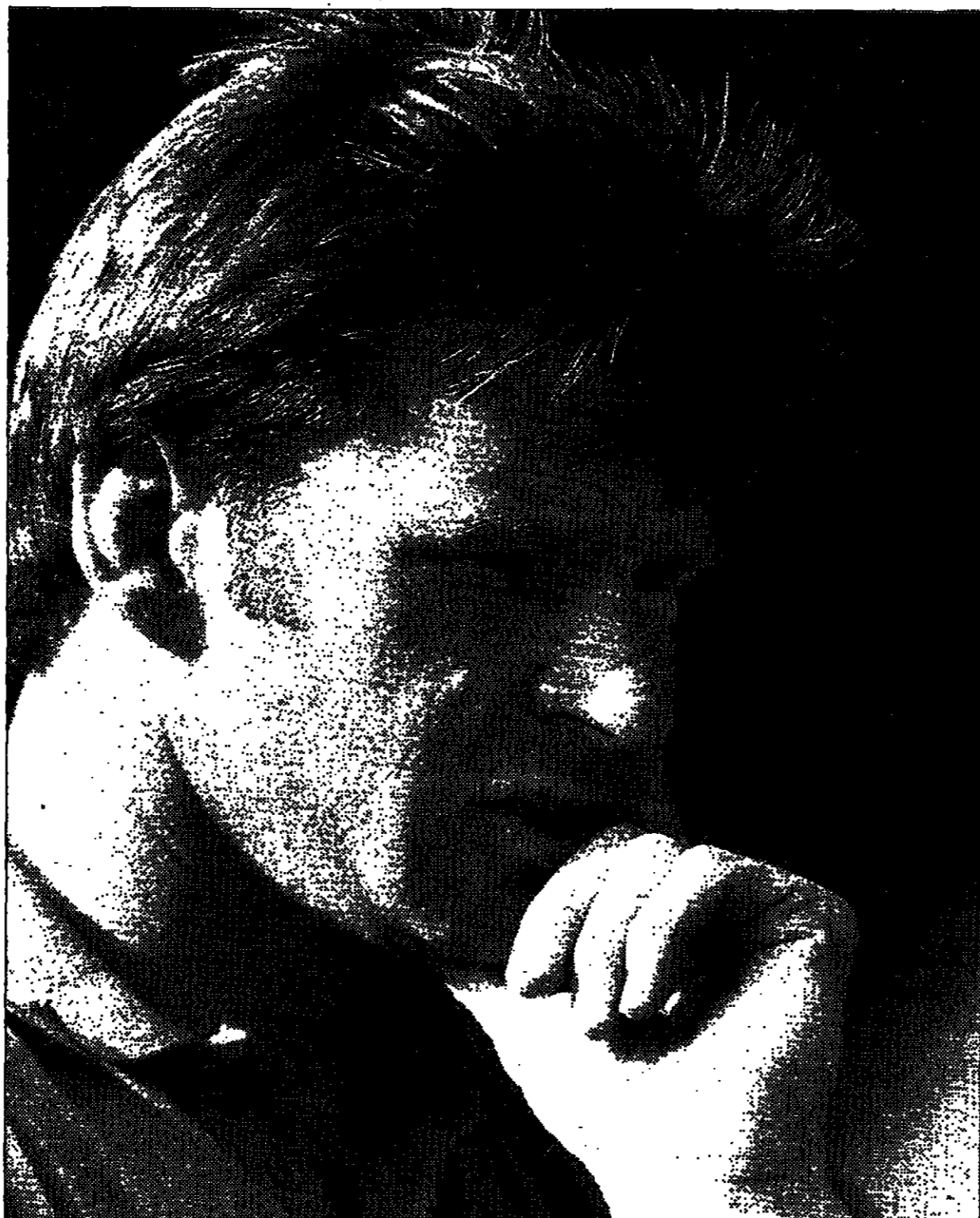
Handwritten text in Arabic script: مكتبة الامم المتحدة



Cepelak... Faldo's Eurydice

'You ask for privacy and they listen in to your phone calls and they sit outside your house for months. It's not nice knowing that 300 yards away there's someone with a lens trained on you waiting for the picture they want.'

David Davies on the annus horribilis of Britain's leading golfer



Back in the frame... a content Nick Faldo defends his Doral Ryder Open title in Miami

Old Nick in tabloid hell

NICK FALDO is now, he says, "emotionally happy, content". On the eve of the Doral Ryder Open, here in Miami, he is preparing to defend a title he won 12 months ago, but this time with the support of 21-year-old Brenna Cepelak, the former student for whom he left his wife of 10 years, Gill.

"courtesy of the British tabloids". Faldo's friendship with Cepelak was revealed shortly after the Ryder Cup, during which Faldo played superbly and Gill behaved magnificently. Faldo's captain, Bernard Gallacher, in a recent Golf World interview, said: "Her attitude in the run-up to Oak Hill and during the Cup itself made all this possible... any spiteful wife would have been throwing bricks his way all week. Not once has she done anything like that. I admire Nick entirely on the course and I admire Gill completely off it."

"You ask for privacy and they listen in to your phone calls and they sit outside your house for months. It's not nice sitting inside knowing that 300 yards away there's someone with a lens trained on you, waiting for the picture they want. It's incessant. Brenna once had 27 messages on her answerphone, all the same, all from the same guy. They just want to wear you down."

45th in the US Open, 40th in the Open and 31st in the US PGA. Nevertheless, it was only six months after he had met Cepelak in Tucson in January that Faldo hit a shot he will remember all his life. It came at the desperately difficult 18th of Doral's Blue Monster course and it won him the Doral Ryder Open. All he had to do was hit a three-wood absolutely straight, deviating not an inch, 330 yards, the last few of them over water, and fly the ball high enough to stop it almost dead on the glass-fast green.

his Harley Davidson motorbike, nor, as he could have done, in his \$1 million motor launch. Nor did he use any one of his seven Ferraris, nor the more appropriate vehicle for this de-luxe resort, his Rolls-Royce. He descended on us in the shiniest, sleekiest helicopter - jet black with the name SHARK picked out in gold letters - that even Doral has seen. Entrance made, he went out, played nine holes against Jack Nicklaus, Fred Couples and Raymond Floyd, won \$30,000 of the \$25,000 available, and took to the skies again.

James off slippery slope

Michael Brittan in Tarragona

A TASTE of the high life has given Mark James a fresh appetite for the start of his 21st season on the PGA European Tour when the Catalan Open tees off at the Bonnouet course near here today.

Open at Atlanta, the 42-year-old has been skiing - a sport he took up only three years ago. "I didn't dare start when I was younger because I was afraid of getting injured," he said, "but now I have reached decent intermediate standard, and it is great fun."

when he practised for the new season on snow-covered ground near his Hixley home last week. "I have no idea what shape my game will be in," he said. "I concentrate on holding the club by the rubbery end and making sure I take a divot after the ball."

Sport in brief

Ice Hockey Wayne Gretzky has confirmed his long-rumoured move to St Louis Blues from Los Angeles Kings. The 35-year-old Canadian, nine times named the NHL's Most Valuable Player, was traded for three young players plus a first-round draft choice for 1997. "I'm emotionally drained to leave LA," he said, "but I'm excited to play in St Louis." The Blues later named Gretzky team captain.

Cricket Warwickshire have given a one-year contract to the 26-year-old Australian Michael Edmond, an England-qualified pace bowler from Sydney who helped his adopted

country win the Indoor World Cup in Birmingham in October. Glamorgan announced a record profit of \$10.132 for 1995, the third successive year with a surplus.

Hockey Seven new caps have been named in the England women's squad to play Ireland on March 9-10 and France on March 24. Including Clifton's 34-year-old Lorraine Marsden. The Hightown defender Jackie Crook is recalled for the first time since the 1987 European Cup.

Athletics

Absentees give youth a fling in Stockholm

Stephen Blaxter

FOR the vast majority of Britain's leading athletes next month's European indoor championships in Stockholm have never figured in their plans during this Olympic year. So inevitably there was an under-strength look about the original team of 28 announced yesterday - and an even weaker lot for the first time since the 1987 European Cup.

groin injury and, with Atlanta very much in mind, has decided not to take the slightest risk, while Jarrett, the silver-medal winner in last year's world outdoor championships in Gothenburg, has a back injury.

Mark Hyton, Britain's most promising young 400m runner, is the substitute and will make a decision tomorrow. Hyton picked up a groin strain while warm-weather training in Lanzarote and was forced to ease back in Glasgow last Saturday. Kent Neef pulled out.

their titles and both have strong hopes of winning gold again. But essentially these championships will give Britain's younger athletes a chance to gain experience and test their nerve.

Jason Gardener's 60m time of 6.55sec in Birmingham last month made everybody sit up, while Tony Whiteman's impressive 1500m front running on the same day in the GB-Russia match marked him out as a name to follow.

Cricket

Russell set to be sacrificed

Mike Selvey in Karachi

ALEC STEWART could be set to resume his wicket-keeping role as England strive to find a winning formula for Sunday's match here against Pakistan, their last chance to gain some form before the World Cup knock-out stages.

pointed not just in the lack of runs but the consistently careless manner of his dismissals. These culminated in a schoolboy error in the last over against South Africa, when he failed to ground his bat taking a quick single and was run out.

Now, with the experiment of using Neil Smith as a pinch-hitter deemed a failure by the manager Raymond L. Page, England, particularly against South Africa, contains Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, should revert to an orthodox pairing.

Until Jack Russell's return in South Africa last winter, Stewart had been a regular wicket-keeper in limited-overs internationals, and also in Tests. As a genuine all-rounder, he allowed England the option of playing either a full hand of specialist bowlers or an extra batsman.

A lack of concentration, particularly when playing well, is a trait that has characterised much of his career: sometimes the game looks too easy for him. However, Stewart could be expected to score more runs than Russell and that should carry the vote.

Whether Stewart should accompany Atherton, however, is debatable. In the past, he has carried off the dual roles of opener and keeper adequately, although it remains an unsatisfactory arrangement when England bat second after a trying session in the field.

Pilcom deals under scrutiny

THE World Cup sideshow moved centre stage on yesterday's rest day as the Asian Age continued a series of "revelations" about the tournament's organising committee, Pilcom.

THE newspaper, published in India and London, said that Indian officials had confirmed that Pilcom had failed to obtain a mandatory clearance from the Indian government to make foreign-exchange transactions worth \$5 million.

Officials of Pilcom were not available for comment, though the committee has previously refused to say anything on the matter until the tournament is over.

Rugby Union

Rowell takes it all in his stride

Robert Armstrong

JACK ROWELL yesterday insisted he was still enjoying the job of England manager and said he felt no pressure from the recent torrent of criticism. As his team began the countdown to Saturday's Grand Slam decider with Scotland, Rowell defended off complaints about their mediocre form and emphasised the need for the players to enjoy themselves at Murrayfield.

plan which involves integrating new players, a third of the team in fact," explained Rowell. "But the senior players, too, have a big part to play in taking us forward to something new - Rory Underwood has bounced back strongly and we've brought Dean Richards back at No. 8 for tactical reasons, though he was never out of the squad."

Referees threaten to strike

Ian Mallin

REFEREES in Wales, who feel left behind in the professional era, may dismiss themselves in a row over expenses.

Basketball

Russia go on the rampage to humble weakened England

Christian Bright in Moscow

THE worst fears of the England coach Lesio Nemeth were realised in the huge CSKA sports arena here last night when Russia humbled his side 114-59. It rendered all but academic English hopes in the European Championship.

capitalising on their renowned fast break. By the end of the only bright spot for the visiting coach was the form of his 7ft 11in centre Ian Whyte, who displayed accuracy that was superior to all his more experienced team-mates by shooting well for 17 points, 11 of which came in the second half, when England were battling only for respectability.

Brian Davies, the society's secretary, said: "There is a feeling that referees are being left behind. Referees are very much the poor relations of the game."

Ken Rowlands, the WRU's referees' development officer, said the Union was trying to reach an amicable settlement. "I should point out that we are the only Union to have a national sponsorship scheme for our referees who all receive two jerseys, two pairs of shorts and a track suit."

Snowline

24hr skiing information direct from resorts in: Austria, France, Italy, Switzerland, Spain/Andorra & rest of Europe, N. America/Canada, Romania/Bulgaria

0891 333 541

Weatherline 0891 333 401

Call us 24hrs on 0800 300 000

SKI Sport

SportsGuardian

CHAMPION STEELED FOR REVENGE AGAINST IRON MIKE

Bruno has the edge in battle of words

FRANK BRUNO enjoyed a distinct cutting edge in the first verbal sparring in Las Vegas before he defends his World Boxing Council heavyweight title against Mike Tyson on March 16.

Irritated during yesterday's news conference by the seemingly bored Iron Mike and his heckling entourage, Bruno later questioned whether Tyson had learned anything while serving a 3 1/2-year prison sentence for rape.

"I thought prison was supposed to wise you up and make you a better man," said Bruno. "He's getting worse, to be honest, both in the ring and out of the ring."

Bruno had refused to get involved in a shouting match with Tyson's henchmen, but later criticised the former undisputed champion for his group's actions. "The entourage around him are bad people. There's not one ounce of class among them. And after I finish with Mike Tyson they're going to disappear."

The 34-year-old Briton may be an 8-1 shot to beat Tyson, but he was pulling no punches during the conference at the MGM Grand Hotel.

On a word count, a confident Bruno won this contest handsomely as the Americans scarcely bothered to answer even the most basic question.

Tyson stopped Bruno in the fifth round when they met seven years ago. But that will not happen this time, declared Bruno, when he makes his first defence of the title he

captured from Oliver McCall in September.

"I can't wait to get my hands on him. I rocked him the first time we fought; I'll rock him to sleep this time," said Bruno. "I'm not coming to disgrace myself. I'm going back home with my belt."

Bruno, fresh from his training camp in the Canary Islands, then weighed up his chances of revenge. "I am 210 per cent better since the last time I fought Tyson. I'm stronger and I'm heavier. Bruno was 16st 2lb when they last fought. He now tips the scales at 17st 1lb."

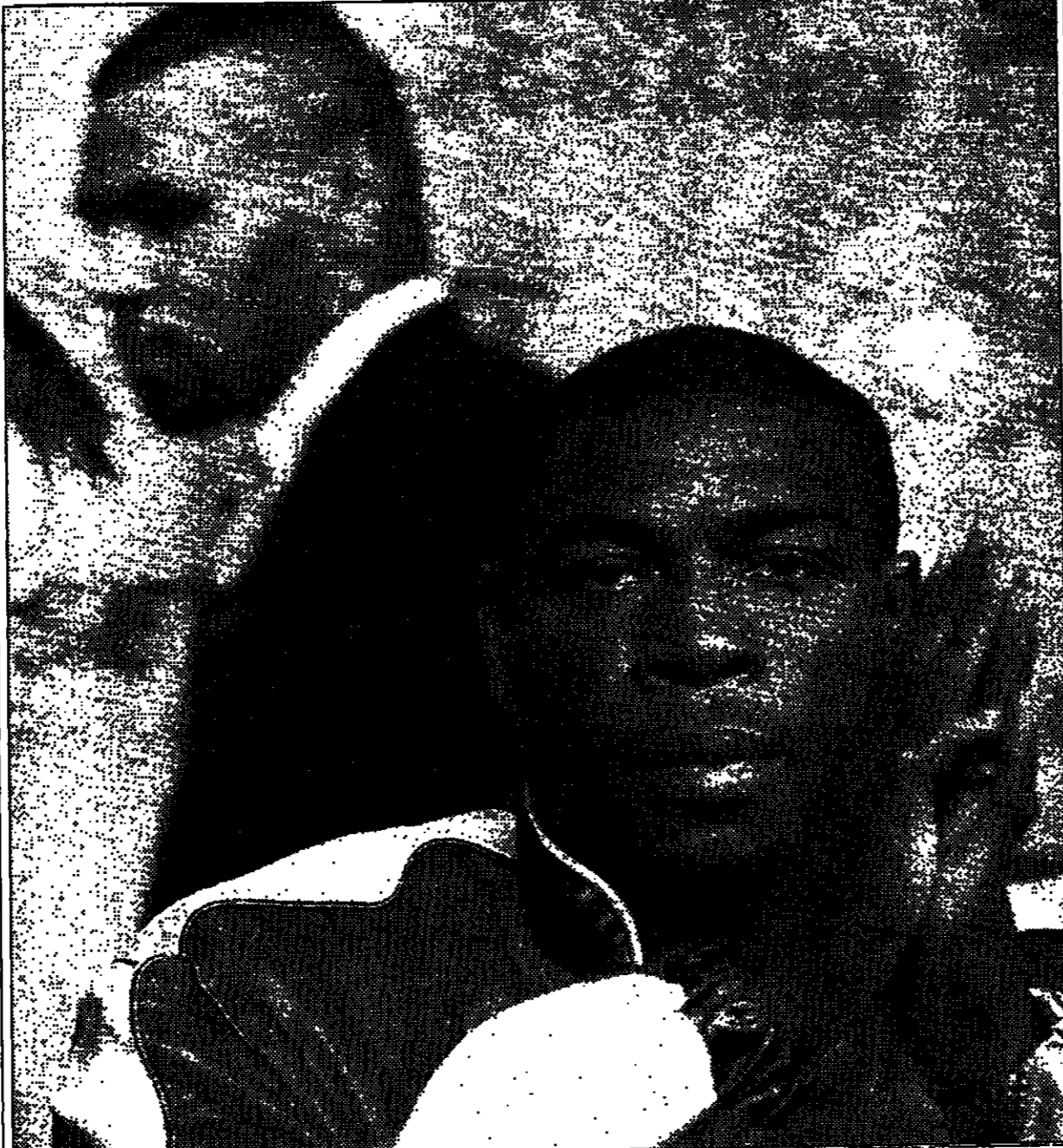
"I am at the top of the mountain and I'm going to stay on top. I'll still be champion," added Bruno.

The Briton's prediction brought a low-key response from Tyson. "It's interesting Frank Bruno's talking brave and courageous, but I beat him once and I'll beat him again. I'm confident of my capabilities."

The 29-year-old American was backed by his co-manager John Horne. "Mike's the greatest ass-kicker of all time. We've seen nothing that makes us believe Mike's anything less than what he was."

Tyson's other manager, Rory Holloway, weighed in with confidence. "I don't think Mike will have any problem at all. Bruno couldn't beat Mike in 100 years. It'll be a quick fight. Nothing's changed."

Tyson, who has been training in Las Vegas for several weeks for his third fight since leaving prison last March, is



Shadow of Tyson... but Bruno insists he will still be in the foreground after defending his WBC title on March 16

2-1 to take Bruno's title. Bruno is getting around £4 million to meet Tyson, with the challenger said to be on £20 million. Bruno is reportedly upset about not receiving a percentage of the television rights in Britain, where

he was being treated like the challenger. It took Bruno nearly 14 years and four title contests before finally winning a world title, capturing the WBC crown when he defeated McCall on points at Wembley Stadium in September.

"I would have liked to defend it in England. I would have rather stayed home, but I'm a professional," said Bruno. "I'm not afraid to fight him in his home, or in the prison where he was."

Homely idol from the golden age



Frank Keating

FORTY years on, possibly to the very day, yesterday was by touching Luke precisely the same sort of blue-bright and sunny late winter's day on the Cotswolds as it had been in 1966. The moment I heard the news I remembered, as wrenchingly as if it was only last week, how the nerves had knotted my stomach as I pushed my old Raleigh boneshaker up past Bulls Cross and Camp Hill to Misarden, hidden and honeyed and high above Stroud on the Birdlip road.

She'd obviously tell me to clear off. Or, even worse, what if she didn't? What if I can't think of a question? Any road, why should she talk to a berk like me when she's used to being interviewed over hunches and dimers by Fleet Street's finest, my heroes?

"She's shy of the press," Geoffrey had said when ordering me not to telephone first. "Don't give her a chance to make excuses, laddie, just get up there and ambush her and bring me back 1,000 words." A thousand. I don't think I even knew that many.

Geoffrey was the belligerent (and to be beloved) former editor of the Stroud News and I was his brand new cub in my first week. The day before he had taken a long slump of scotch, wiped his moustache on his sleeve, fixed me with bloodshot gaze and announced he wanted a new column. Personality of the Week, and I could begin it with a bang by going up to see how Stroud's most famous personality was getting on.

television pin-up. In the early Fifties the first mass audience sat by their firesides in front of their fuzzy monochrome screens and, although not knowing a halter from a hind leg, they cheered on this slightly dumpy, apple-cheeked country gel and her string of homely horses.

accompanied by Dorian Williams' even more thoroughbred vowels. "Five to go... the water, safely over... the wall... now the final difficult treble... she really stokes him up... mon Pat... she's over!... she's clear! Oh, well done, Pat!"

The girl who was so good to me that day was the girl who took on the man, the girl with little money who schooled her own horses to take on the millionaires, and who that same summer became the first woman to ride at an Olympic Games. She came back from Sweden with a bronze in the team event and won an OBE.

HER father, an electrical engineer, had died in the war. In 1962 she lost her mother, who was killed driving to Stroud station on the wickedly steep bend below Slad's Woolpack Inn and Laurie Lee's outcrop.

That day of my first ever interview Pat was still alone in her grief, compensated only by her headstrong athlete Prince Hal, the faithful mottled-grey Tosca and the brave-heart Flanagan, the three names a nation loved and which tripped off the tongue round the rings at Haringey, White City and Wembley.

Thanks to Pat (as well as Barry Llewellyn and Foxhunter) showjumping was in its only golden age.

I last saw her about 10 years ago, still commuting for long chunks of each year between the spiky grandeur of her late husband Sam Koehlin's Swiss Alps and her mellow Midwestern home. She sat me down, put an old spaniel in my lap and, giggling softly, let me interview her properly. Could she have done it today?

"Not all alone nor, as I had to, on a shoestring. But I think we had more fun. I made my sport my education. I loved art and opera as much as my horses. When they said go and compete somewhere I said, 'oh goodie, Madrid means the Prado' or 'Paris means a few more rooms at the Louvre' or 'Milan means I can ride Tosca in the afternoons and go and hear it in the evenings.' I can't see our Olympic showjumpers thinking like that nowadays. Well, the sponsors wouldn't let them."

Her autobiography was called *Jumping for Joy*.

Obituary, page 10

Direct from the Royal Mint
Britain's new £5 coin

Now Available

- Five pound denomination
- Impressively large 38.61mm diameter
- Struck to superior quality - Brilliant Uncirculated standard
- Beautifully presented in a colourful folder
- Carefully protected in an outer wallet
- THE ideal memento for old or young alike
- All you pay is £8.95 plus £1 postage and packing
- AVAILABLE NOW!

The Royal Crown - struck to mark the Queen's Seventieth Birthday

PEACE OF MIND - DIRECT FROM THE ROYAL MINT. If you're not entirely happy with your coins, we will refund your money in full if you return the pack by registered post within 30 days.

Arsenal may pay for their bad boys

MAYBE it was David Hillier's bag snatch at Gatwick that did it. Or the fruity confessions of David Seaman's estranged wife. Or George Graham's alleged hang. Then again, it might have been Paul Merson's drink-and-drug binge or Ray Parlour's assault of a Hong Kong taxi driver, writes Neil Robinson.

There seem no shortage of suspects to blame for JVC's decision to reconsider their tie-up - soccer's longest sponsorship deal - with a club whose public image has taken a fearful battering over the past few years.

The current deal, said to be worth £5 million over three years, expires at the end of the season. Yesterday a spokesman for the Japanese electronic giant admitted that the bad publicity had influenced its review, although he said that high cost of sponsorship is the main factor.

"The cost of these deals go up and we have to look at whether they remain good value," he said.

Thirty years ago, when the Queen was in Melbourne, she went to the races and all the young ladies turned their backs to the horses to gaze up at her, gasping with excitement when she dropped her hankie. This was an Australia still linked umbilically to the mother country.

G2 cover story

Guardian Crossword No 20,588
Set by Rufus

Across

- 1 Beating the retreat (6)
- 4 Unnatural cunning (6)
- 9 Land that lies around in the water? (4)
- 10 Overdraw an account (10)
- 11 Creature found wild in Manila (6)
- 12 The Poles are, but not the N and S ones (6)
- 13 Listen to a spot of rain falling from the roof (5)
- 15 I left to start work (4)
- 16 Chief part of the foot (4)
- 17 Not enough money even for a brief trip (5)
- 21 What a horse trainer does is to check any vices (6,2)
- 22 Club porter (6)
- 24 Still lacking subject for debate (10)
- 25 Club for evening out (4)

Down

- 2 It's odd about the taxes (6)
- 27 State benefit is about right (6)
- 1 A word of praise (7)
- 2 Fancy woman upset, is under the doctor (5)
- 3 Outside left required to be prodded into action (7)
- 5 Look upon with respect (6)
- 6 Not to be made light of (3)
- 7 Drop of leave before autumn (3,4)
- 8 Don't seize opportunities to be safely conscious? (4,2,7)
- 14 Such a rite is suited to a solemn sacrament (5)
- 16 Where you may see duty-free wine on display (7)
- 18 Changes roles? (7)
- 19 Displayed - a willingness to invest? (4,3)
- 20 Period of redemption, states article on church (6)
- 23 Go for the green (5)

Solution tomorrow

© Published by Guardian Newspapers Limited at 119 Farringdon Road, London EC2A 4DF. Printed at West Ferry Printers Ltd, 205 West Ferry Road, London E16 2HX. Trifford Park Printers, Longbridge Road, Manchester M17 1SL. Zepherus GmbH, Adolph-Heuss-Strasse 1, 6078 Neu-Isenburg/rue du Calvaire, 69493 - 59052 Rodgau, Germany; Nord-Stein, 15261 Codes 1, France; for and on behalf of the Guardian and Manchester Evening News PLC, 42-48, Thursday February 25, 1996. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office 18294 0261-3077. London Telephone 0171-276 2332. Telex 8811746 (Guardian), Fax 0171-276 2116 0171-276 2342. Manchester Telephone 0161-621 7200. Fax 0161-322 2291/054 9717. Tel sales 0161-624 6666

سكنا من الاجل